THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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An autorickshaw driver with breads hanging from his neck during a rally against inflation in Lahore, Pakistan on Sunday | PTI

PAKISTAN IS ALREADY BANKRUPT, CONFESSES ITS DEFENCE MINISTER

The much-talked-about debt default has already happened, defence minister Khawaja Asif said at an event in Sialkot

ASIF BLAMES ESTABLISHMENT FOR THE MESS

"You must have heard that Pakistan is going bankrupt or that a default or meltdown is taking place. It (default) has already taken place. We are living in a bankrupt country," Asif was quoted as saying by Pakistan media. He blamed the establishment, bureaucracy and politicians, and claimed that law and Constitution are not followed in Pakistan

'IMF CAN'T SOLVE COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS'

- Asif said the solution to Pakistan's economic crisis lies within and not with the IMF. He claimed the country could service 25% of its debt by just selling two expensive golf courses built on government land
- As IMF bailout talks hit roadblocks, Pakistan last week hiked petrol prices by a whopping 22 rupees a litre, which may further fuel inflation

$3 billion

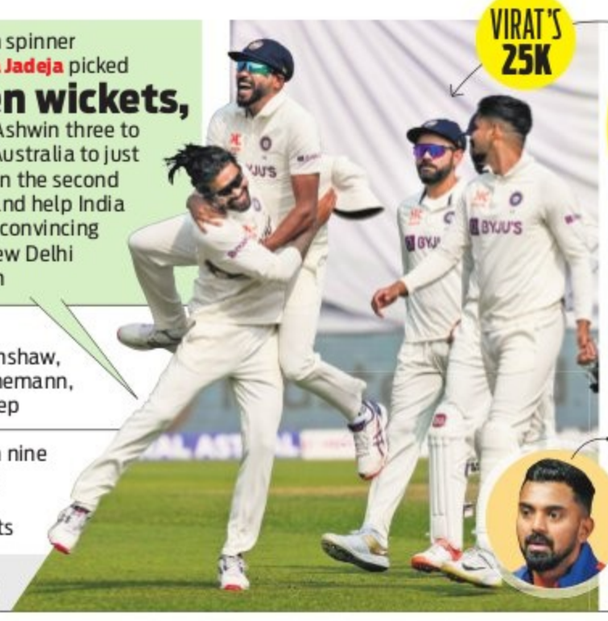
IS THE CURRENT SIZE OF PAKISTAN'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

INDIA SHOW NO MERCY

Rohit Sharma & Co beat Australia by six wickets and take lead 2-0 in four-Test series on Sunday. The hosts will retain Border-Gavaskar Trophy

Left-arm spinner **Ravindra Jadeja** picked **seven wickets,** while R Ashwin three to restrict Australia to just 113 runs in the second innings and help India secure a convincing win in New Delhi yet again



VIRAT'S 25K

Virat Kohli became the sixth and the fastest batter in the world to score 25,000 runs across all formats on Sunday

More than half of Australia's batting line-up, including Steve Smith, Matt Renshaw, Alex Carry, Pat Cummins and Matt Kuhnemann, perished to either sweep or reverse sweep

Starting their day with 62-run lead with nine wickets in hand, the Aussies added just 52 runs. Chasing 115 runs, the hosts overhauled the target losing four wickets

KL Rahul retained

Out of form batter KL Rahul has been given another chance to prove himself as the selectors named him in the squad for the next two Tests and ODIs. Injured Jasprit Bumrah doesn't figure in either of the teams

PAGE 13

NEXT TWO TESTS Indore (March 1-5) Ahmedabad (March 9-13)

US warns of sanctions if China sends arms to Russia

Hot air

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi slammed the US for shooting down its 'spy' balloon early this month, terming it "unbelievable and almost hysterical"

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken on Saturday confronted his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi during talks on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference and made it clear that any material support to Russia will attract US sanctions.

China has so far avoided sending lethal weapon systems to Russia. However, in an interview with a US television network on Sunday, Blinken said based on the information the US has, China is now considering providing "lethal support", which he said would include "everything from ammunition to the weapons themselves."

"He told Wang then that if China provides material support to Russia or assistance with systemic sanctions evasion, there will be consequences," a US official said.

In recent months, Russia suffered a series of setbacks with Ukraine managing to wrest back vast swathes of territory, thanks to western arms. If China sends lethal weapons now, it may help Russia turn the tables again.

During the encounter, Blinken also called out China for its "irresponsible act" of sending a balloon over the US airspace, and in unequivocal terms, made it clear that it must not happen again.

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Faith-healing

HOLDS SWAY IN THE UNDERBELLY OF SOCIETY

TNIE takes a look at how spiritual intervention is preferred by many to modern medicines out of sheer faith of being cured at a much lower cost | P7

No Opposition unity without our leadership, says Congress

Targets Trinamool, says the GOP is not 'double-faced' while fighting the BJP

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

WELCOMING Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's call to take the lead in forging an alliance of opposition parties to defeat the BJP in 2024, the Congress on Sunday said the party is already on the job, adding that no opposition unity is possible without its active participation.

The upcoming Congress plenary session will deliberate on Opposition unity, said Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh. The plenary session in Chhattisgarh's Nava Raipur will start from February 24 and is expected to be attended by 15,000 delegates.

On Saturday, Nitish Kumar had said he was waiting for a signal from the Congress to bring Opposition parties together. Kumar said the BJP would not be able to cross 100 seats in the 2024 polls if the opposition parties fight together.

While reacting to Nitish, the Congress also took potshots at some of the opposition parties such as the Trinamool for not being on the same page. "We know our role very well. We don't need to give a certificate to anyone to take the lead role. Because, any attempt towards Opposition unity will be unsuccessful without Congress," said Ramesh, claiming that the Congress is the only party that never had an alliance with the BJP.

We are not double-faced while fighting BJP. Congress is against policies of BJP and we demand a JPC probe into the Adani row. We have only one face

Jairam Ramesh

He also accused certain opposition parties of siding with the BJP on critical issues. "Some parties were in agreement with us in demanding a JPC inquiry into the Adani issue. But, some of them demanded a Supreme Court-monitored probe. That is a political move to save PM Modi from the crisis," said Ramesh, while addressing a press conference here on Sunday.

AICC general secretary K C Venugopal said the party has already taken the initiative by inviting like-minded political parties during the Bharat Jodo Yatra. "Certainly, the Congress will play a bigger role as suggested by Nitish Kumar," he said, adding: "Our main job is to lessen the numbers of the BJP."

Buzz on Tharoor's entry into CWC

CYNTHIA CHANDRAN @ T'Puram

A day after Shashi Tharoor hinted that he may reconsider his decision not to run for the Congress Working Committee if elections are held, party sources said he may be made a special invitee to the party's top decision-making body.

Tharoor, who had said earlier that he would not contest CWC elections, said on Saturday, "I'm waiting for an official declaration... There could be a change in the stand according to the party's decision."

Congress national general secretary K C Venugopal was also non-committal on the issue. "Wait and see," was his cryptic reply when asked about the Thiruvananthapuram MP's prospects of getting nominated to CWC.

Batting for Tharoor, a senior Congress leader told this newspaper that the party cannot sideline him anymore. "The leadership is aware of his clout among the youth and apolitical people in the state and across the country." The leader added that Tharoor would have got into the CWC without any problem had he stood within the party framework. "He had held the edge among Congress leaders from the state. But his much-publicised meetings with various community leaders played spoilsport."

Sources said senior leader Ramesh Chennithala is likely to get a berth in the CWC.

Youth kills delivery boy for iPhone, arrested

During questioning, Kunje admitted that he murdered Naik only for the iPhone as he had no source of income

Thammiah, ASP

BR UDAYA KUMAR @ Hassan

A YOUTH, who was desperate to own an iPhone, killed a 20-year-old courier boy from an e-commerce major, stashed the body in the bathroom for two days and then burnt it half-a-kilometre away from his house at Arasikere of Hassan district. The accused, 24-year-old Hemanth Kunje, murdered the courier boy, Hemanth Naik, on February 7 when the latter went to deliver the phone, the police said.

Kunje was picked up when he was found moving around suspiciously at the KSRTC bus-stand in Arasikere on Saturday night. He was later arrested as he was found in possession of Naik's phone. He confessed to the murder during the interrogation.

On February 7, Naik from E-Kart went to deliver the iPhone to Kunje at his home at Lakshmipura. The accused invited Naik inside the house, and asked him to wait, while he went inside the kitchen to get a knife to open the parcel. Kunje came out with the knife and stabbed Naik in the chest and stomach. P3

Govt in a fix as IGP Roopa, Sindhuri fight

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

TWO senior women bureaucrats -- IPS officer Roopa D Moudgil and IAS officer Rohini Sindhuri -- have locked horns and have indulged in a slugfest, putting the state government in an embarrassing position. IGP Roopa, on her social media account, made a series of allegations against Sindhuri, while the latter stated that the IPS officer had lost her mental balance and she would file a case against her.

Referring to a news report that Sindhuri had met MLA Sa Ra Mahesh, who had made several allegations against her when she was serving as Mysuru deputy commissioner, to strike a compromise, Roopa questioned Sindhuri why did she meet the MLA and what she was trying to conceal? In a lengthy post on her social media profile, the IPS officer stated that though there were several allegations against Sindhuri, there was no investigation.

CONTINUED ON: P4

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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
• Monday: 20/02/2023 • Year: Shubhakruta • Ayana: Uttharayana
• Ritu: Sishira • Masa: Magha • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Amavasya 1.25 pm
• Nakshatra: Dhanista 12.41 pm • Moon in Meena Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 16°C | MAX 31°C
FORECAST sunny

Sunrise 6.40 am
Sunset 6.26 pm
Moonrise 6.43 am
Moonset 6.40 pm

Kengeri-Challaghatta stretch to open by mid-2023

BETTAHALASURU STATION BACK ON AIRPORT LINE

Embassy Group representatives have come forward again to fund the Bettahalasuru Metro station on the KR Puram-Kempegowda International Airport Line after a round of talks held last week between the two sides. This station between Doddajala and Bagalur Cross, incorporated on the request of Embassy in April 2020, was dropped in December 2021 after Embassy group expressed its inability to do so. A senior official told TNIE, "Embassy has requested us again to have a station at Bettahalasuru. It will cost Rs 140 crore and they will be offering the funding soon." MD Anjum Parwez confirmed the development.

Challaghatta Metro station

85 per cent of station works complete, says senior official

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

THE pending 1.9-km stretch between Kengeri and Challaghatta on the extended Purple Line will be opened for operations only by mid-2023. With the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) absolutely focusing on the launch of the Baiyappanahalli-Whitefield line, the launch of this stretch has been delayed.

The operations on the 7.53-km line from Mysuru Road to Kengeri began on August 30, 2021 and the extension to Challaghatta, a late addition on the line, was to become operational a few months later. However, it never materialised.

A senior official said, "As on date, 98 per cent of civic works have been completed and 85 per cent of station works are also over. Works on systems, signalling, electrical and maintenance are still pending will take two months to be completed."

The station will be a boon for those who will be staying in the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout in future. An underpass will connect the Major Arterial Road of the Layout with Challaghatta, making it easy for allottees to access the metro station.

Meanwhile, the Challaghatta depot is far from ready. The contract has been awarded to a joint venture between RITES and Power Mech Projects Ltd and they have started preliminary depot works. "It would take much longer for the depot to be ready. However, we will begin train operations from Kengeri to Challaghatta station when all works are completed there," he said. BMRCL MD confirmed the line would get operational by mid-2023.

The buses will be added to the Bengaluru and Mangaluru fleet | TWITTER

KSRTC to induct 20 'Ambaari Utsav' sleeper buses

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

KARNATAKA State Road Transport Corporation's 'Ambaari Utsav' has been doing rounds on social media ahead of its launch. Working on the promise of a 15-m long bus which will offer an aircraft-like travel experience, KSRTC will be inducting 20 such multi-axle Volvo 9600 sleeper buses to its fleet on Tuesday.

The exact route and ticket prices are yet to be revealed, sources said that the buses will be added to the Bengaluru and Mangaluru divisions.

Of 50 buses we want to add to our fleet, 20 have been delivered to us by Volvo. The vehicles are registered and is ready for induction. Justifying its name Ambaari Ustav -'Celebration of Journey', the bus will offer the best comforts among all sleeper classes operated by KSRTC, the source said.

Citizens clicked pictures of the bus and shot videos while it was on the trail run and on its way to the KSRTC depot in Bengaluru.

While there were reports that all the 20 buses will be handed to the Mysuru division, the source said the buses will be divided among the Bengaluru and Mangaluru divisions, and when the remaining 30 buses are delivered, they will be given to other divisions.

The source said that the buses will run on long routes like Thiruvananthapuram and Ernakulam where the demand is high for sleeper class. "As the bus offers premium service and luxury, the tickets will be priced accordingly. For now, it can be said that the cost of these sleeper buses will be above the Ambari dream class cost," the source said. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Transport Minister Sriramulu are expected to flag it off on Tuesday.

Residents dress in black, protest to stop Sankey flyover

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CITIZENS have adopted myriad ways to protest against the Sankey flyover like writing to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and hugging trees on Valentine's Day. On Sunday, they had an ingenious idea of dressing up in black, and clicking a selfie with the lake. The pictures were posted on social media with the hashtag "savesankey".

They contended that the flyover will not resolve the traffic woes and will only kill the series of trees along the Sankey lake.

Among the hundreds of citizens who participated in the protest were childrens, who were also dressed up in black to express solidarity. They were at the Sankey lake early morning and walked along the Sankey Tank, marking their protest against the construction of the flyover. Actor-singer Vasundhara Das, a resident of Malleswaram, participated in the protest.

Noting that the city has drastically lost its green cover, Das said that many trees have to be axed for the construction of the flyover, and the residents are against the move.

> Residents urged Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike and other decision-makers to hold a series of public consultations and to find out alternative solutions to the flyover that protects the interest of the people and does not harm the environment
>
> Kimsuka, Citizens for Sankey

"Residents urged Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike and other decision-makers to hold a series of public consultations and to find out alternative solutions to the flyover that protects the interest of the people and does not harm the environment. While the BBMP stated this project is with the Bangalore Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA), this project, less than a week ago, has been sent to the forest department for its approval for felling trees. This indicates they intend to go ahead with the project. Our advocacy will continue until our concerns are addressed, and this project is stopped," said Kimsuka from the Citizens for Sankey.

Residents, dressed in black, protest against construction of Sankey flyover

JAI JAI SHIVA SHANKAR

Devotees in large numbers take part in Brahma Rathotsava as part of Mahashivratri at Kadu Malleshwara Temple in Malleswaram in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

No red ink: After uproar, school passes 'failed' UKG child

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

FOLLOWING uproar from parents and politicians after a UKG student was marked failed, a Bengaluru school finally revised the student's result and passed the child.

Manoj Badal, a parent, whose child studies in UKG at St Joseph Chaminade Academy in Anekal, stated that the school has finally reversed the results and had removed the word 'fail' from her report card.

However, he maintained that the school had shirked the responsibility for the mistake the blamed it on software glitch. "I have no idea what explanation was given, but I don't agree with what the principal said that it was a software error, which was immediately rectified after it was brought to the notice of the school authorities. The truth is that the class teacher, principal and school management trustee all denied to make any corrections. They had recorded their objection in writing on an email," he alleged.

Earlier this month, Badal had posted on social media that his child was assessed failed by the school. He had posted screenshots of the result of four subjects. The student had scored 5 out of 40 in one of them. The post had gone viral, with several prominent figures including former education minister S Suresh Kumar lambasting the school authorities for the incident.

The education department had also taken action against the school and issued a notice, seeking clarification and reversal of the result, failing which the department warned the school would lose its affiliation.

BBMP struggles to clear sofas, chairs from footpaths

MOHAMMED YACOOB @ Bengaluru

ALONG with tackling 3,500 tonnes of waste in the city, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has another headache of broken and old sofa sets, chairs, commodes, and even scrapped vehicles left on footpaths.

Kathyayini Chamraj, activist, solid waste management, accused the BBMP of failing to deal with not just solid waste disposal but also bulky waste.

"Bulky waste is a concept in western and developed countries where they pick up waste like carpets, broken furniture, commodes, and unwanted household items once in three months. An advance notice is given to the residents about the date of collecting such items. I have given a representation to Mahendra Jain when he was the additional chief secretary of urban development a year earlier but nothing was done," she said.

She agreed that dumping such items was irresponsible on the part of residents.

Harish Kumar, commissioner, solid waste management department, BBMP, said that he has also received complaints that such items are being dumped on the footpaths. He said that BBMP will take measures to tackle the problem.

A discarded sofa on a footpath in Marathahalli | PRASUNNA KP

"We will have to deploy Marshals in place from where the complaints come frequently. We will also ensure that the area is well lit so that the offenders are caught," said Kumar. Areas such as Annasandrapalya, Jyothi Nagar, and Basavanagara in KR Puram and Ulsoor have seen people dumping unwanted items late night and early morning to avoid being caught.

EXPRESS READ

BNU invites applications for PhD

Bengaluru North University (BNU) has started inviting applications for their PhD programmes. A notification was released by BNU. Admissions to full-time and part-time PhD programmes have begun in various disciplines. Last date to submit applications is February 28. Candidates can also apply till March 3 with a penalty of ₹250. Candidates for the programmes are invited in 29 disciplines. The university will release dates for exam and interviews later.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

20TH February : There's an extraordinary amount of hope around, in spite of everything. The end-result could take us anywhere, and the best advice is therefore to emphasise the virtues of self-discipline and self-control. Plan your day with care! That's advice we should all take, whatever our birth signs. No exceptions!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Looking at the long-term, life is still very much dominated by the passage of benevolent Jupiter through a sector of your horoscope which is significant for both your work and home life - which just about covers most options! Somehow, sometime, you are going to turn up trumps. Hopefully, it will be the right thing at the right time!

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Once sensitive Venus alters its position, which should happen before too much longer, you will find it so much easier to relate to other people in a sensible, mature fashion. Do your best to clear up all misunderstandings before they become accepted wisdom.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
When Mercury is behaving in such an odd fashion, you must accept plans being cancelled or delayed. This could actually be to your advantage! Your main concern will be to press on and complete current projects regardless of whether partners agree or approve. After all, why should you always do what they want?

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Intriguing celestial patterns encourage you to go your own way. Please press on with optimism and absolute confidence in your unique destiny. As you've discovered in the past, the more you believe in yourself, the better your chances. Have faith in the future!

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Please don't worry if social agreements seem hard to come by, or if your best-laid plans come to nought. It is in the nature of the times that all discussions and proposals should be put on hold. One thing you can be pleased about is that by next week partners will no longer be holding you back.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
There are ways and means of recouping your losses and, in the long-run, you will benefit from current developments. However, in the short-term, an established arrangement may come radically unstuck. You never know, though, it might be to your advantage if you're set free to reconsider your plans.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Let others carp and criticise and play their pathetic little games. You have too much to think about to be involved with people who long ago abandoned any real desire to improve themselves. The time has come to give a firm 'no' to individuals who don't deserve your attention.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
You must pay very close attention to what companions have to say. However, I doubt if you will be able to make very much sense of other people's intentions, as will become only too obvious after a few days. In a week of change, you must keep your options open.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
You may be obliged to alter your tune, or at least amend your plans. However, in spite of any indications to the contrary, there is no threat to your longer-term hopes, wishes and ambitions. In fact, your stars are due to grow sweeter and more sympathetic.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
What can be done to salvage the situation at work, where your plans and proposals need a boost? Your best policy now may be to bide your time and wait for the tide to turn, as it surely will. Until then, you can continue to refine your ideas in secret.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Last week, the excitable side of your nature was stimulated. This week, it is your more down-to-earth qualities which will come in handy, enabling you to avoid some of the confusion which afflicts your fellows. Take a practical approach and you'll gain a head-start on rivals.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
It does seem that you are about to gain the financial advantage. This is a consequence of clear communication, plus somebody's good intentions. And that's why you should give partners the benefit of the doubt. If you have time, chase a romantic opening.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

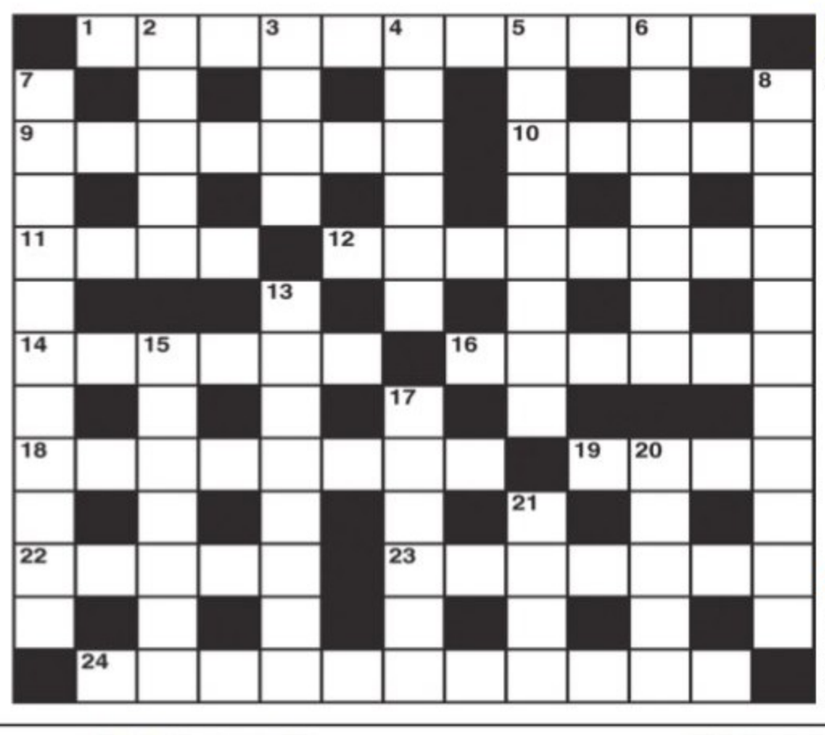
		2		5			7	
3							9	
6				3	9	4		
7	6	3					1	
9		4	1	8	6	3		7
	2					9	6	5
		9	5	4				1
	3							2
	1			6		5		

4	2	6	5	9	3	7	1	8
5	8	3	7	1	6	2	4	9
7	1	9	8	2	4	3	5	6
9	4	5	6	8	7	1	2	3
8	6	2	1	3	5	9	7	4
3	7	1	9	4	2	6	8	5
6	5	4	2	7	9	8	3	1
2	9	8	3	5	1	4	6	7
1	3	7	4	6	8	5	9	2

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 It's useful to those in a tearing hurry (11)
9 Observed the cake appears quite plain (7)
10 It stoops to conquer (5)
11 Bird always seen about the North (4)
12 Distilled spirit in a gram can (8)
14 Spread out (6)
16 Tell a story concerning the dead? (6)
18 Patient having had to give up work (8)
19 Strangely these can be even in the plural (4)
22 Hearing test (5)
23 Let out or let out again (7)
24 A warning of some blow to come (5,6)

DOWN
2 Consumed in a threatening manner (5)
3 Standing clock (4)
4 Additional horsemen? (6)
5 What Cinderella became after twelve (8)
6 A sheer fabrication (7)
7 Irate, took food to excess (11)
8 The favourite's in a class by himself (8,3)
13 Odd number (8)
15 He quibbles about suits after the bill goes up (7)
17 A new bride's bits and pieces (6)
20 Play involving a doctor and a mother (5)
21 Commercial with an electrical connection (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Martyr, 4 Apostate, 9 Tedium, 10 Nineteen, 12 Read, 13 Axles, 14 Miss, 17 Accept office, 20 Distilleries, 23 Rood, 24 Touch, 25 Peri, 28 Material, 29 Sermon, 30 Turnover, 31 Penned

Down: 1 Maternal, 2 Radiance, 3 Your, 5 Pride of place, 6 Suez, 7 Alexis, 8 Ernest, 11 Extortionate, 15 Spain, 16 Screw, 18 Linesmen, 19 Assigned, 21 Prompt, 22 Poster, 26 Argo, 27 Fete.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

NVTEE

WALUF

LBADAL

JADINO

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

" " ( ) ( ) ( )

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: BULKY DADDY PARLAY WEALTH
Answer: The baseball player got a better contract because he and his agent — PLAYED HARDBALL

Stating that there is a need to address the issue of students dropping out of school, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot said NGOs and forums must take initiative to adopt villages and students and provide them with quality education

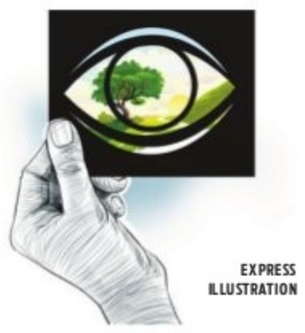
10-15 ANNUAL EYE INJURIES FROM SLAKED LIME, SAYS EXPERT

Accident cases also reported from other mild acidic substances used for domestic chores

NAMRATA SINDWANI @ Bengaluru

DOCTORS at Minto Eye Hospital in Bengaluru see cases of eye injuries among children due to slaked lime (chuna or calcium hydroxide) while they play with it.

Dr BL Sujatha Rathod, medical superintendent, Minto Eye Hospital, said that these cases are usually reported by children of working class persons as they tend to consume it more. "We see around 10-15 cases annually of children coming to the hospital with complaints of eye burns caused by chuna.



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

Children usually find the small bottles in the house and while fiddling with it, accidently causes it to spurt out."

Apart from slaked lime, accident cases are also reported from other mild acidic substances used for domestic purposes like cleaning. Dr Shwetha HR said that monthly around five cases are accidental eye burn cases. The cases usually range from mild to severe. In severe cases, the patient loses vision completely if the fluid in large quantities enter the eye, resulting in major burns.

Doctors suggested that parents have to be more cautious and ensure that such items are kept out of the reach of children.

Experts said they are also perturbed by the health hazards of other smoking and non-smoking tobacco products like beedi, gutka, paan among others which are generally consumed by the working class people. SJ Chander from the Consortium from Tobacco Free Karnataka said despite 85 per cent of Indians consuming tobacco products which are not regulated and pointed out the hike in cigarette prices, and said that other products were

Body lay in bathroom for two days

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

KUNJE also strangulated Naik to ensure that he was dead, the police said. He then dragged the body to the bathroom and let it stay there for two days. As it started stinking, he shifted it to a vacant plot of land near his house and burnt it, the police said. Kunje was alone at home over the last few days as his mother had gone to his sister's house at Belaguru in Chikkamagaluru district, the police said.

Assistant Superintendent of Police Thammiah said Kunje had booked the iPhone worth Rs 46,000 under the pseudonym Baby. "During the interrogation, Hemanth Kunje, a PU dropout, admitted that he murdered Hemanth Naik only for the Apple iPhone as he didn't have a source of revenue to buy it. The accused allegedly hatched different plans to get his favourite gadget, but as he did not succeed, he decided to murder the courier boy. The half-burnt body of Naik has been recovered," Thammaiah said.

Kunje, too, worked as a courier boy earlier at different agencies and had lost the jobs because of his habit of stealing parcels, the police said. Naik was staying with his brother Manjunath, who is a labourer, at a slum in the town.

WANT OF WATER

A vendor sells clay water pots by the roadside, heralding the onset of summer, in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

MISSING THE BUS

BMTC's UPI-based ticketing system yet to see light of day

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

BANGALORE Metropolitan Transport Corporation's (BMTC) ambitious plan to put an end to the complaints of 'no change' seems to have been postponed. BMTC was all set to roll out the UPI-based ticketing system, like Google Pay, Phone Pe, and credit and debit cards, to buy tickets in December. But the plan has been delayed as the transport corporation is waiting for the best offer on transaction charges from banks.

If there is one major complaint, apart from the high ticket price, against BMTC is that conductors do not tender the exact change. It is even worse when passengers, who do not have exact change, are asked to get off the bus.

Megha, who works in a private company, said she either has to get the exact change while boarding the bus or does not bother about getting back the exact change.

"We understand the situation of conductors as they see hundreds of passengers every day. However, they should also understand our situation that we too cannot carry the exact change to board the bus."

Many BMTC passengers are waiting for UPI-based ticketing so that they can say goodbye to the 'loose change' issue.

BMTC sources said the system is all set to be rolled out and the corporation is waiting for a reply from banks. Once the bank that offers the maximum discount on the transaction charges and Merchant Discount Rate is finalised, they will roll out UPI-based ticketing, they added.

BMTC conductors will have a handheld device where they will feed in the destination of the passenger. The machine will calculate the price and show up a code, which the passenger should scan through their Google Pay or PhonePe and once the transaction is complete, a physical ticket is generated. Tickets will not be generated for failed transactions and in such cases, passengers must pay cash.

We understand the situation of conductors as they see hundreds of passengers every day. However, they should also understand our situation that we too cannot carry the exact change to board the bus

Megha, BMTC bus commuter

Two wanted for double murder shot at

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Doddabelavangala police of Bengaluru Rural district shot at two suspects wanted in a double murder case and arrested them after they allegedly attacked a police team.

Vinay and Trimurthy were shot at and arrested in the early hours of Sunday. Police said a cricket tournament was organised on Friday and the accused had stabbed Bharath and Pratheek when a fight broke out between the two groups. The accused duo was absconding after the incident and the police teams were on the lookout for them.

"On Sunday early morning, the police teams received information that the duo will be coming near Doddaballapura Railway Station to collect money from a friend. Based on information, a police team rushed there and surrounded the accused. Refusing to surrender, the accused tried to escape by attacking police staff. Though the police fired a warning shot, the accused didn't budge and hence the police shot at them injuring their legs. They have been admitted to a hospital and will be questioned once they recover. Meanwhile, investigation is on to trace the other accused involved in the case," the police added.

Meanwhile, Bengaluru Rural SP Mallikarjun Baladandi has issued instructions to officers not to permit any tournaments until the Assembly elections are over.

EXPRESS READ

Woman dies while breastfeeding

UDUPI: A 39-year-old woman died suddenly after collapsing while she was breastfeeding her one-and-a-half-month-old son on Saturday. Gunavathi had delivered the child at the government hospital in Udupi on December 23, 2022. After being in the hospital for postpartum care, she got discharged from recently. On February 18, as she was breastfeeding her child, she suddenly became weak and collapsed. She died while being taken to hospital in Kundapur. Gunavathi's brother, Subraya Devadiga, stated that his sister was discharged from the hospital after 21 days of her delivery.

Delivery boy killed in hit and run

BENGALURU: A 20-year-old food delivery boy was killed in a hit-and-run accident in Mico Layout traffic police station limits on Sunday morning. The deceased has been identified as Kameel Ahmed Jamadar, who hailed from Hassan, and was residing in JC Nagar. Police said the incident occurred near Jal Bhavan on Bannerghatta Road at around 5.30 am, when a speeding vehicle hit his scooter and sped away. Jamadar sustained grave injuries and died on the spot. The police have registered a case and are verifying CCTV footage to trace the vehicle and its driver.

Awareness walk for rare diseases on Feb 26

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE eighth edition of RaceFor7, an awareness walk for treating patients with rare diseases, is being organised after a gap of two years in Bengaluru on February 26.

The awareness walk/run aims to raise awareness for people suffering from rare diseases and to advocate better policies and access to treatment for patients with rare diseases. The 7-km run symbolises the 7,000 known rare diseases across the world.

Organisation for Rare Diseases India (ORDI) estimated that on an average, it takes seven years to diagnose a rare disease further adding that 70 million Indians suffer from such diseases.

ORDI co-founder and executive director Prasanna Kumar Shirol said, "RaceFor7 is one of the largest multi-city events in the city to raise mass awareness. It aims to create awareness and the need of preventive measures to contain rare diseases such as consanguineous (inter-family) marriages, prenatal tests and informed decisions about child birth, newborn screenings, precision healthcare and innovation.

Besides Bengaluru, the event is being held in 12 other cities, with Davanagere, Mysuru, Ahmedabad, and Mumbai being few of them

PUBLIC NOTICE

This to inform the general public that my client **SRI. J.SHANTHAKUMAR,** Son of Jyothi Linga Rao, residing at No.101/1-3, Gavipuram, Bangalore 560 019, is intending to purchase the schedule property and entering into agreement of sale with its owners Sri. Kantharaju, Son of Seenappa, 2) Sri. Darshan K., Son of Sri. Kantharaju and 3) Smt. Lavanya K. D/o. Sri. Kantharaju, all are presently residing at No.91, Chikkahosahlali, Bangalore 562 106. Person/s, company/s, Bank/s, Financial Institution/s or anyone asserting any right, title, interest or claim in the schedule property or any part thereof in any manner or having any claim against the schedule property or the documents thereof, or against the owners of the schedule property by objecting to such sale transaction in favour of my client should write to the undersigned within **FIFTEEN DAYS** of the issuance of this public notice with all documentary proof on which such person/s basing or asserting his/her/their claim, right, title or interest over the schedule property or any part thereof. If no claim or objection is received by me or my client, within the said period, I shall be instructing my client to proceed with and complete the sale transaction on the basis that there are no claims or objections of whatsoever nature with regard to the sale or claim in respect schedule property from any one or from any quarter.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential property bearing Old No.101/1, New B.B.M.P Katha No.26, BBMP PID No.52-59-026, situated at De.Javaregowda Road, Gavipuram, Hanumanthanagar Ward No.155, Bangalore 560 019, measuring East to West : 20 feet and North to South : 9 feet, totally measuring 180 sq. feet, together with 1.5 squares A.C. sheet roofed building thereon, and bounded on the :- **EAST BY :** Property of Thimmaraju; **WEST BY:** Government Road; **NORTH BY :** Property of Sri J.Shantha Kumar; **SOUTH BY :** Private Property.

S.R.RAVISHANKAR, Advocate,
#22/1/99, Gowrishankara Nilaya, 8th Cross, Orchard School Road, Vasanthapura Main Road, Bangalore 560062. **M: 94484-46795**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my clients **have** intent to enter in to a Joint Development agreement with **its Land owners** Mrs. **BHAGYAMMA @ BHAGYA, W/o Late Sri.Raja Rao.T.S,,** and others family members Residing at Thomahalli Village, Malur Taluk, Kolar District-563130, in respect of the schedule property which is more fully described in the schedule given below. If any persons claiming or objections with regard to the Schedule Property they are required to send the same with documentary evidence within **Ten (10) days** from the date of this Public Notice hereof my clients shall be at liberty to proceed with the joint development agreement if there is no any claims or objection in the regard to the Schedule Property within the stipulated time.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel **of the Agriculture Land bearing Survey No.31,** Measuring 6 Acre 15 Guntas, and **Survey No.32,** Measuring 3 Acre 35 Guntas,both in total Measuring 10 acres 10 Guntas, Situated at **Seethanayakanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District** together with all appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and both properties having common boundaries bounded on:-

East by: Seethanayakanhalli Village and Chikkannana Thota,
West by : Land in bearing Survey No.33, 39 and Survey No.40
North by: Land in bearing Survey No.41,
South by: Land in bearing Survey No.35,

T.RAMESH KUMAR &
MANJULA RAMESH Advocates
No.1, Alisa Arcade, Near Vijaya Bank, Old Madras Road, K.R.Puram, Bengaluru-560036. Ph.No.9845601026
Bengaluru Date: 19-02-2023

BHARATIYA RESERVE BANK NOTE MUDRAN (P) LIMITED
(Wholly owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India)
P.O.: RBNML, Salboni - 721132, Paschim Medinipur Dt., West Bengal.
Phone No.: 03227-280176 / 280317; Fax No.:03227-280744 / 280222

OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY (OTE)/NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (NCB)

Tenders under Two Part bidding system are invited for the following:-

1. **RATE CONTRACT FOR REPAIR & MAINTENANCE OF CIVIL WORKS IN TOWNSHIP AND PLANT AREAS OF BRBNMPL, SALBONI; TENDER NO. 037/SAL/MMD-CIVIL/2022-23 [ESTIMATED COST – ₹ 220.00 LAKH]**

Last date of submission of the above tender is **24.03.2023 by 11:30 Hrs.** For downloading tender document and other details, kindly visit our website **www.brbnmpl.co.in**. Further extension or amendment/s, if any, shall be uploaded on our website only.

Chief General Manager

Bharat Co-operative Bank (Mumbai) Ltd
MULTI-STATE SCHEDULED BANK

We are pleased to announce the shifting of our Koramangala Branch w.e.f 27/02/2023 to a new premises situated at Ground Floor, Sri Krishna Arcade, 7th Main, 80 Feet Road, Near Wipro Park, 3rd Block, Koramangala, Bangalore 560 034. Tel : 25505355/66

citibank
Citibank N. A.,

Demand notice issued to the following borrowers under section 13(2) of the securitisation and reconstruction of financial assets and enforcement of security interest act 2002

No.5, First Floor, Ranga Towers, M.G. Road, Bangalore.

You, below mentioned borrowers have committed default of repayment of loans amount mentioned below along with further interest at the agreed rate from mentioned date till date of repayment.
The Bank had issued notice* under the Act on calling upon you to repay the outstanding amount.The notice which was sent to you by Regd. Post has been returned unserved.
You are hereby called upon to pay the amount together interest at the agreed rates from mentioned date, till date of repayment within 60 days from the date of this notice, failing which Bank will be constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of security interest as against the secured assets given in the schedule hereunder.
This notice issued is without prejudice to any other remedy available to the Bank.

1. **Name of the Borrowers : Mr. Raghavendra Paragodu,** No. 146, Brindavan 1st Main Road, Kalyan Nagar, Near Vijaya Bank, Bangalore - 560 072. (Mailing & Permanent address) **Mr. Raghavendra Paragodu,** Manyatha Embassy Business Park, Level 8 Block C2 Cedar Outer Ring Road, Nagavara, Bangalore - 560 045. (Office Address) **Mr. Paragodu Rao,** No. 146, Brindavan 1st Main Road, Kalyan Nagar, Near Vijaya Bank, Bangalore - 560 072. (Co Borrower Address), **Mr. Raghavendra Paragodu,** Site No. 146, 1st Main Road, Kalyan Nagar, Moodalapalya, Bangalore - 560 072. (Property Address)
A/c. No. 324162
Loan Amout :Rs.30,00,000/- **Liabilitys on 13.01.2023 : Rs.11,27,967.49**
Demand Notice Date :13.01.2023 **NPA Date: 30.11.2022**
DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY: SCHEDULE - I : Description of Immovable Property (Secured Property) : 2.2 Guntas out of Survey No. 42, situated at Nagarabhavi Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli,, Bangalore North Taluk, Measuring 40x60 ft Boundaries :East by : Private Property, West by : Private Property, North by : B. Shankar and Kumar's Property, South by : Road.

2. **Name of the Borrowers : Mr. R. K. Shiva Kumar,** B-102, Saurabh Flats Behind TGB Rest Aurant, Pal Road, Adajan, Surat - 395 009,(Mailing address) **Mr. R. K. Shiva Kumar,** Krupanidhi College of Physiotherapy, 72/1, Outer Ring Road, Bellandur, Bangalore - 560 037, (Office Address) **Mr. R. K. Shiva Kumar,** No. 969, 2nd Main Road, 4th Block, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore - 560 010.(Permanent address) **Ms. Usha Shivakumar,** No. 969, 2nd Main Road, 4th Block, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore - 560 010. (Co Borrower Address), **Mr. R. K. Shiva Kumar,** 1, K. No. 53/7/1/P, Babu Sabara Palya, HIRBR Layout, 2nd Block, Bangalore - 560 043. (Property Address)
A/c. No. 311596
Loan Amout :Rs.19,90,000/- **Liabilitys on 13.01.2023 : Rs.8,07,628.06**
Demand Notice Date :13.01.2023 **NPA Date: 29.09.2021**
DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY: SCHEDULE - I : Description of Immovable Property (Secured Property) : All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site No. 1, Katha No. 53/77/1P, Property No. 82/8, of Babusapalya, Chelkere Village, Horamavu Agara Panchayat, K. R. Puram Hobli, erstwhile Bangalore South Taluk, Now it is Bangalore East Taluk, measuring East to West (59+60)/2 feet and North to South (50+40)/2 feet in all measuring 2655 square feet and property being bounded : On the East by : Site No. 11 and 9, On the West by : 40 feet Road, On the North by : Private Property,, On the South by : Site No. 2.
The Schedule Property consisting of one square sheet roofed house, constructed in mud, hone wood door and steel window and no civic amenities.

3. **Name of the Borrowers : Mrs. Sheeba Priyadarshini,** No. 491, Merrick Road, Apt No. C4, Ocean Side - 11572, (Mailing address) **Mrs. Sheeba Priyadarshini,** One Healthy Way Ocean Side - 11572 (Office Address) **Mrs. Sheeba Priyadarshini,** No. 41, 1st Lane, New Binny Layout, Bangalore - 560 026. (Permanent address) **Ms. Hilda Kumari A,** No.55/8, 3rd Main, PNB Nagar, Doddakallasandra, Bangalore - 560 062 (Co Borrower Address), **Mrs. Sheeba Priyadarshini** Site No. 19, Khata No. 2147, Sy. No. 167/3, 2nd Cross, Kothanur Main Road, Kothanur Village, Bangalore - 560 078. (Property Address)
A/c. No. 322640
Loan Amout :Rs.42,00,000/- **Liabilitys on 13.01.2023 : Rs.27,02,727.00**
Demand Notice Date :13.01.2023 **NPA Date: 28.02.2019**
DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY: SCHEDULE - I : Description of Immovable Property (Secured Property) : All that piece and parcel of property bearing Vacant Site No. 19, (nineteen), Katha No. 2147, formed in Converted Survey No. 167/3 (Converted vide Order No. B.DS.ALN.SR(S)133/2003-04, dated: 23.07.2003, issued by the Depurty Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore), situated at Kothanur Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, presently within the administrative limits of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Bangalore, measuring as follows : East to West : 40-0 (Forty) feet, North to South : 30-0 (Thirty) Feet, in all mesuring 1200-0 Square feet. and bounded as follows : East by : Site No. 13, West by : 30.0 feet Road, North by : Site No. 20, South by : Site No. 18.

Date : 15.02.2023
Place : Bangalore

Yours Faithfully,
AUTHORISED OFFICER
CITIBANK N.A.

Your Guide to Spicy Living INDULGE Every Friday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDERS
(Only through e-Procurement Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer(East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender(Rs.) / EMD Amount(Rs.)	Last date & Time for submission of tender	Date and time for opening of tender
1	East -2	BWSSB/EE(E)-2/PB/2601/ 2022-23 Date : 01.02.2023	Rs. 68,42,475/- / Rs. 1,36,850/-	06.03.2023 upto 4:00 pm	08.03.2023 after 4:00 pm
2		BWSSB/EE(E)-2/PB/2603/ 2022-23 Date : 01.02.2023	Rs. 89,52,200/- / Rs. 1,79,044/-		
3		BWSSB/EE(E)-2/PB/2611/ 2022-23 Date : 03.02.2023 *(Reserved for SC Category)*	Rs. 35,99,506/- / Rs. 35,995/-		
4		BWSSB/EE(E)-2/PB/2613 / 2022-23 Date : 03.02.2023	Rs. 7,03,730/- / Rs. 17,593/-		
5		BWSSB/EE(E)-2/PB/2615/ 2022-23 Date : 03.02.2023	Rs. 19,94,524/- / Rs. 49,863/-		
6		BWSSB/EE(E)-2/PB/2617/ 2022-23 Date : 03.02.2023 *(Reserved for SC Category)*	Rs. 20,29,866/- / Rs. 25,000/-		
7		BWSSB/EE(E)-2/PB/2619 / 2022-23 Date : 03.02.2023	Rs. 13,71,615/- / Rs. 34,290/-		
8		BWSSB/EE(E)-2/PB/2621/ 2022-23 Date : 03.02.2023 *(Reserved for ST Category)*	Rs. 34,33,514/- / Rs. 34,335/-		
9		BWSSB/EE(E)-2/PB/2623 / 2022-23 Date : 03.02.2023	Rs. 31,65,172/- / Rs. 63,304/-		
10		BWSSB/EE(E)-2/PB/2625 / 2022-23 Date : 03.02.2023	Rs. 11,50,137 / Rs. 28,753/-		
			Sd/- Executive Engineer (East-2)		
11	South East -1	BWSSB/EE(SE-1)/PB/3698 / 2022-23 Date : 16.02.2023	1: Rs. 9,90,375/- / Rs. 24,800/- ; 2: Rs. 14,71,670/- / Rs.36,800/- ; 3: Rs. 70,07,035/- / Rs.1,40,150/-	07.03.2023 upto 5:00 pm	08.03.2023 after 5:30 pm
			Sd/- Executive Engineer (South East-1)		
12	South East -2	BWSSB/EE(SE-2)/TO/PB/3566 / 2022-23 Date : 16.02.2023	Rs. 30,36,082/- / Rs. 60,725/-	06.03.2023 upto 4:00 pm	08.03.2023 after 4:30 pm
13		BWSSB/EE(SE-2)/TO/PB/3568/ 2022-23 Date : 16.02.2023	Rs. 15,08,528/- / Rs.37,715/-		
			Sd/- Executive Engineer (South East-2)		

The details regarding the tender and participatin in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/JA/4768/2022-23

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit Sandur town of Ballari district on February 23 to participate in a public rally of the BJP and to conduct a party core committee meeting

RAM TEMPLE IN BUDGET AIMED AT POLLS?

BJP trying hard to make inroads into Ramanagara; DKS, HDK confident of holding fort

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Basavaraj Bommai's budgetary announcement of building a 'majestic' Ram temple at Ramadevara Betta near Ramanagara is seen as part of BJP's larger plans to make inroads into the Old Mysuru region ahead of the Assembly polls.

Higher Education Minister **Dr CN Ashwath Narayan**, who was pressing for the construction of the temple, insists that this temple will resemble the one in Ayodhya. In December 2022 Narayan met Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and invited him to Ramanagara to initiate the comprehensive plan for the temple, claiming that Karnataka and UP have significant mythological, cultural and historical links. The move by Narayan, a Vokkaliga leader and Ramanagara district incharge minister, has already created buzz in the Vokkaliga heartland. KPCC president DK Shivakumar and JDS leader HD Kumaraswamy, who have strong influence in the region, have questioned the budget announcement, but not opposed the construction of the temple.

"Let him build the BJP office in Ramanagara first," ridiculed Shivakumar.

"The BJP cannot build a Ram temple in Ramanagara and the announcement will remain in the budget book. It is possible only by me," he said, adding that nobody can change the political landscape in the region. Ramanagara is of interest to Kumaraswamy too as his son Nikhil will be the Assembly poll candidate from there. The BJP is yet to open its account in Ramanagara, which has proved to be the stronghold of Congress and JDS since Independence. Kengal Hanumanthaiah (1957), HD Deve Gowda (1994) and HD Kumaraswamy (2004), who won from here, went on to become chief ministers.

"It is part of BJP's political agenda, but there is nothing to demolish to construct the temple. It is to divert the attention of the people," said leader of opposition in the Council BK Hariprasad. Many local residents too said the temple is unlikely to strike a chord with them as an emotional issue and will not help any party politically. "In Ramanagara, we observe Hanuma Jayanti every year in a harmonious manner. BJP cannot communalise the region with the temple construction," said Congress leader Iqbal Hussain, who was the runner-up in the 2018 bypolls.

A joint survey by the revenue, forests and muzrai departments indicated that the muzrai department has 19 acres to its credit, but it is in the vulture sanctuary, an eco-sensitive zone.

About 34 guntas of plain land where small temples are situated have a scope for development. But clearance by the National Board for Wildlife is needed. Myth has it that during his 14 years of Vanvas, Lord Rama spent over a year at Ramadevara Betta.

TECH CITY: BENGALURU EMERGES AS A TOUGH CITADEL TO CONQUER

AS BJP and Congress leaders are set to hit the next round of campaigning after the ongoing budget session of the state legislature ends on Friday, the State Capital, Bengaluru, with 28 Assembly segments looks to be a tough citadel to conquer for both the national parties.

Going by party positions and political developments as of today, the equations in the city are unlikely to change much as no party is in a position of strength to dislodge the others in a big way.

The Congress and the BJP seem to be placed evenly like in the last elections. The Janata Dal (Secular) (JDS) and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) are working hard to make their presence felt, although it is an uphill task for them.

Bengaluru will be an important part of the poll strategy for both national parties. Many big leaders from both sides are well-entrenched in their segments for many years, or even decades. However, their influence in other constituencies is limited. This holds good for leaders in both parties.

Congress feels there is an undercurrent of anti-incumbency against the BJP and that the situation is tailor-made for its return to power provided it fields winnable candidates.

But, the Congress, once all-powerful in Bengaluru, is still looking for candidates who can give a tough fight in many constituencies in the city, though it has a surfeit of candidates in other parts of the state. The party finds itself on a weak footing in seats that were earlier held by its leaders who defected to BJP in 2019.

Top Congress leaders admit to finding strong candidates in all 28 seats being a challenge for them. This is despite their surveys indicating that the party has a good chance of improving its position.

In the 2018 polls, Congress did well by winning 14 of the 28 seats and BJP got 11. But equations changed after the bypolls in 2019 when 17 MLAs from Congress and JDS left their parties to help BJP's BS Yediyurappa form the government.

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Congress Committee (KPCC) working president and former minister Ramalinga Reddy will be a key leader of the party in the state capital and many of its sitting MLAs are well entrenched in their constituencies.

The party hopes to get the full backing of the minority communities to consolidate anti-BJP votes in its favour as the JDS is not such a big force in Bengaluru unlike in the Old Mysuru region. The party has been trying to woo voters by highlighting gaps in infrastructure development, unemployment, price rise and other issues in the city.

On its part, the BJP will be banking on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's charisma and its candidates' connection with their voters to shore up its prospects. Underlining the importance of the Modi factor, a senior BJP leader and MLA who was on a door-to-door visit in his constituency, said: "Before I reach the house, Modi has reached the voters."

The party is said to be closely assessing equations in the constituencies it lost narrowly in the last elections. It is now working in a united manner with a strategy to wrest those constituencies back from Congress.

The BJP also faces the challenge of ensuring that everyone, including those who toiled for the party for many decades and relatively newcomers, work as a team – more so, with leaders from Congress and JDS joining its ranks with their followers.

At the same time, ministers ST Somashekar, Byrati Basavaraj and Munirathna Naidu (who jumped to BJP in 2019) and minister K Gopalaiah (who joined BJP from JDS) add muscle to the ruling party.

Like in other parts of Karnataka, BJP will be highlighting the "double-engine" governments' push for development, state and Union governments work as well as allocation of nearly Rs 10,000 crore in the 2023-24 budget during its campaign in Bengaluru.

It remains to be seen if talks about infrastructure development will have any impact on the voters, especially after the City's image took a severe beating when roads in the tech corridor looked like overflowing rivers due to flooding during the last heavy rains that lashed the city.

A section of urban voters, disenchanted with BJP and Congress, may look towards AAP, but their numbers are unlikely to have an impact on the poll outcome. In the next few weeks, the parties are likely to come up with their Bengaluru-specific poll strategies and promises in an attempt to make a compelling case for their candidates.

For now, sitting MLAs and aspirants in all the parties are reaching out to voters in their own ways, and the situation will become clearer once the candidates are announced by all the parties.

Ola invests in TN: Bommai govt slammed

ENS @ Bengaluru

A DAY after Ola Electric Mobility signed an MoU for investment worth Rs 7,614 crores with the Tamil Nadu government to set up an electric vehicle hub with integrated two-wheeler, four-wheeler and lithium cell gigafactories, industry experts and the Opposition Congress in Karnataka have slammed the Bommai-led BJP government for losing out on the investment.

Taking to Twitter, former director of Infosys Mohandas Pai said: "Why is the state losing out on EV? We had the first EV policy in India! Very disappointed at the lack of concern at this loss." Congress MLA Priyank Kharge, who also heads KPCC communication cell, said that Ola, which cut its teeth in Bengaluru, is now investing heavily and employing thousands in Tamil Nadu. "There is policy paralysis in Karnataka. The government is unable to convince investors and provide a conducive ecosystem. Is Ease of Doing Business only for 40%?" he questioned.

Surjewala must first set Cong's house in order, says Bommai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Hubballi

TAKING a dig at AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai sought to know what the former knows anything about Karnataka. "First, let him set the squabbles within the Congress right and then comment on the state," he said.

Commenting on Surjewala's comment that "hell has been created" by the Bommai-led BJP government in the state, the CM told reporters on Sunday that the people sent the Congress home from the hell they had only created. "This is the most irresponsible Opposition party. Instead of showing the failures during its regime, the Congress is making statements that would not have any bearing on the people," he said.

Reacting to the statements of comparing BJP leaders to demons and himself to 'Bhasmasura', the CM said the people know well who is a demon and who is a god. "The people dumped the Congress that ruled the country for 70 years and showed them who are demons. There is an extensive list of demons in the Congress," he added.

Reacting to the statement that intelligence is required in order to copy anything, Bommai said there is a lot of difference between them. Mentioning that it was the Congress that copied BJP's programmes, Bommai said, "After we announced the 'Gruhini Shakti' scheme, the Congress announced 'Gruha Lakshmi'. So, the memory power of Surjewala is diminishing." He said the government had constituted a committee with the chief secretary as chairman for the implementation of the programmes announced in the state budget for 2022-23, and accordingly, 90 per cent of orders have been issued. Similarly, the same committee will continue the implementation of the promises made in the state budget FY 2023-24.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai offers prayers at Siddharoodha Mutt in Hubballi on Sunday | D HEMANTH

CONG CAN PROVIDE FREE POWER: SURJEWALA

"The BJP government which became popular across India for taking 40% commission is asking how it is possible for the Congress to give 200 units of free electricity to every family if it comes to power. The Congress government can provide free electricity as it will not take commission from the BJP," said AICC General secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala.

Deshpande's aide, ex-BJP MLA jump ship to JDS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

FORMER Hubballi Dharwad East BJP MLA Veerbhadrappa Halaharavi and former MLC S L Ghotnekar, a close aide of former minister R V Deshpande, and Kochimul director Vadaguru Harish Gowda from Bagepalli joined the JDS, giving a shot in the arm for former CM H D Kumaraswamy.

"There is a chance of winning at least four seats out of six in Uttara Kannada district. In 2023, Ghotnekar and Halaravi will be elected to the Assembly. Even in Belagavi district there, is an atmosphere of winning six out of eighteen seats," predicted Kumaraswamy, alleging that BJP government has failed to deliver benefits for farmers and did not even waive off farm loans.

Claiming that he had pooled in Rs 25,000 crore against the farm loan waiver scheme in 2019, when he was the chief minister, he alleged that the BJP government has not released Rs 1,800 crore that was part of the scheme as yet.

"It is a shame on the BJP government which has been going to polls without addressing the farmers' issue. As soon as JDS comes to power, we will release Rs 1,800 crore with interest against the loan waiver scheme that will help 2.35 lakh farmers families," he said.

The valedictory of the Pancharatna programme would be held either in the Mysuru-Mandya or Hassan region, with over 10 lakh people expected to attend the rally, he said.

'Roopa driving personal vilification campaign'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"WHEN she (Sindhuri) was Mandya ZP CEO, there was an allegation that figures related to the construction of toilets were fudged to get an award from the central government. There was no investigation into this. There was a direct allegation against her when 24 people died in Chamarajanagar hospital without oxygen. She managed to save herself. IAS officer Harsha Gupta had submitted two reports against her to the government but there was no action. There was a complaint registered against her in Lokayukta and the government, without giving a reason, rejected permission to investigate her. Will officers have such support? Her husband runs a real estate business and many times he has got information related to lands from the office of the Survey and Land Records. Will there be any action on this," Roopa questioned.

She alleged that Sindhuri is constructing a bungalow in Jalahalli, but there is no mention of it in the immovable property returns that officers have to submit.

"The government has got information of her chats about getting Italian furniture worth crores and Rs 26 lakh worth German appliances duty-free and spending Rs 6 lakh on hinges alone. We have to wait and watch whether there will be any action," she stated.

Roopa also said that IAS officer Dr Ravishankar, in his preliminary enquiry, had stated that Sindhuri had violated laws related to heritage structures by laying tiles and constructing a swimming pool at the official residence of Mysuru DC. Further, she attacked Sindhuri and said the latter only made allegations against Sa Ra Mahesh and MP Pratap Simha but never proved them.

Pointing to the case where Sindhuri was transferred to Mysuru and the advocate general represented her case in the Central Administrative Tribunal, Roopa criticised the government's stepmotherly attitude towards Kannadiga officers. Raising questions on the government not initiating any action against Sindhuri despite several charges, Roopa alleged that the IAS officer had also shared her 'not so decent' pictures with a few senior officers. "It's not a private issue, but an offence as per All India Service Conduct Rules," she stated.

Legal action

In a media statement, Sindhuri attacked Roopa stating that the latter has been driving a false, personal vilification campaign against her. "It is her (Roopa's) standard modus operandi. She has done it in every place she had worked. She has always craved media attention and her social media is proof of her work. She has targeted one person or the other and that seems to be her favourite pass time than focus on any substantial work," Sindhuri stated, mentioning that mental illness is a huge problem and it becomes all the more dangerous when it affects people in responsible positions.

Further, Sindhuri stated that she would take legal and other action with appropriate authorities for Roopa's actions amounting to misconduct and criminal offences. "The photos are screenshots and picked from social media posts/Whatsapp statuses which are falsely being used to scandalise me. She can share the names of people she is alleging I have sent these pics to and the same can be verified."

Setback for BJP after BSY aide joins Congress

ENS @ Bengaluru

PROMINENT Lingayat community leader and former CM B S Yediyurappa loyalist H D Thammaiah joining the Congress, along with his supporters here on Sunday, came as a setback for BJP national general secretary and Chikkamagaluru MLA C T Ravi.

Thammaiah, a former municipal council president, was with Ravi for almost 15 years and was felt let down when the latter had allegedly ignored him for sometime. He was aspiring to be the Chikmagalur Development Authority (CDA) president, but Ravi gave Anand, a person from a linguistic minority, the role. Meanwhile, the monopoly of Ravi's relative Sudarshan in the contracts had irked local BJP leaders, who chose Thammaiah to be their leader and expected him to be the Congress' nominee in the upcoming polls.

Ravi, a Vokkaliga, who won the seat for four consecutive terms has been looking for the fifth straight win and he is among the state's top BJP leaders who aspires to be the chief minister in future. After he became BJP national general secretary, according to sources, he changed his political operations, leaving a section of party workers at lurch. Meanwhile, the backward classes' appeasement politics did not go down well with upper caste political leaders, especially from the Lingayat community, political pundits observed. " In the coming polls, if the Lingayats, Muslims, SCs, STs and OBCs unite in favour of a Congress candidate, it will become tough for Ravi as the Vokkaligas are less in number in the constituency," a leader remarked.

Chikkamagaluru is significant as it gave a political rebirth to former prime minister late Indira Gandhi by re-electing her in the 1978 bypolls.

Now, with the BJP leaders joining the party, KPCC president D K Shivakumar claimed that political change is blowing in the state.

"Chikkamagaluru is a district with a history of giving a message of political change to the state and the nation. People of this district are intelligent. Those who have joined should carry out membership drives at the booth level extensively and send a message to the BJP headquarters in New Delhi," he said.

KPCC chief DK Shivakumar welcomes HD Thammaiah into the Congress fold in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

STRAWS IN THE WIND

On poll eve, only money matters?

State Congress made its members shell out Rs 2 lakh to apply for party tickets. At the end of entries, there are 1,350 aspirants for 224 Assembly tickets. To prove their financial heft, some aspirants are also getting ready to offer considerable sums to the party fund. One aspirant from Chikkanayakanahalli constituency is YS Siddaramaiah. His fans say they can go to any extent to get him a ticket. One such was Prabhu Kumar, who offered to sell his kidneys to raise money. What matters the most during polls? It seems, money, money and more money.

BJP's formidable social media army

The BJP's social media cell has been kept busy over the last few days. Not that it was inactive ever, but its targets are changing ever so often. Till a few days ago, the BJP's favourite punching bag was Rahul Gandhi as the Congress leader walked from Kanniyakumari to Kashmir. But after a two-part BBC documentary series was released, the guns changed directions with the cross-hairs on the UK-based broadcaster. Soon, a US-based stock broker Hindenburg, which was not heard of by the general public, was pounded for its damning report against Adani group of companies. Billionaire George Soros was not spared either for wading into the same controversy. The lesson those who take on BJP should learn is that they should be ready for the social media barrage.

Divine blessings for MLA

When polls near, netas, irrespective of the party they belong to, become overly religious, all in the hope of winning at the hustings. MP Renukacharya, the MLA representing Honnali, is no different. He shared a video of a monkey sitting on his car on Saturday, which was also Shivarathri day. When bananas were offered, the monkey ate them. "I see this as divine blessings from Lord Hanuman," tweeted Renukacharya, hoping his wishes would come true. Not just him, even Siddaramaiah, when he was chief minister, changed his car when a crow sat on it, considering it to be inauspicious.

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- The copper factory is a national asset.
- It gave us livelihood for 22 years.
- Five years ago it was shut down.
- In the current geopolitical situation and high inflation, India cannot afford to import and shutdown the plant.
- National Green Tribunal has affirmed this zero liquid discharge plant for its environmental practices.
- Lakhs of our people are jobless and suffering.
- 100s of hearings have happened.
- The plant remaining shut has led to closing many many big and small businesses.
- The government has suffered huge revenue loss.
- During Covid, the plant was re-opened to produce oxygen saving thousands of lives.

We have run and operated this plant during the Nation's COVID crisis, so why can't we continue?

HUMBLE APPEAL TO GIVE BACK OUR LIVELIHOOD.

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MANUNEETHI FOUNDATION

7, MAK India Road, 41-B, Avinashi Rd, Civil Aerodrome Post, Karuparampalayam Pirvu, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu 641014

Thoothukudi Makkal Vazhvadhara Padhukappu Sangam

483/1, Bye pass cross cut road, Sangaraperi, Thoothukudi - 2, 628002

Thoothukudi Industrial Suppliers Association

3/73, Madurai Bypass Road, Thoothukudi – 628101

Thoothukudi Contractors Association

497G/3, Medical College Road, 3rd Mile, Thoothukudi - 628002

*Map not to scale. For representation purpose only

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Clients **1) Sri. KARUPAKALLU SRINIVAS,** Aged about 57 years, S/o. Sri. Parthasarathy K. R/at No.314, 5th Main, BEML Layout 1st Stage, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru - 560 079 and **2) Sri. C. ARJUN KUMAR,** Aged about 42 years, S/o. Sri. Gangulappa, R/at No.52, 1st Cross, 2nd Stage, BEML Layout, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru - 560 079, are intends to purchase the below mentioned schedule property belonging to **1) Dr. KRISHNA MOHAN DEVARAKONDA,** Aged about 48 years, S/o. Sri. Suryanarayanamurthy Devarakonda, **2) Dr. ANURADHA JAYANTI,** Aged about 43 years, W/o. Sri. Krishna Mohan Devarakonda, Both are R/at No.4, 1st Main, Amarajyothinagar, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru - 560 040, having title to the Property concerned as per the documents verified.

Any person or persons asserting any rights, title or claim in the schedule property in any manner or the documents thereof or objecting to such sale in favour of my clients should write to the undersigned within Seven **(7) days** from the date of issuance of the Public Notice with all documentary proof on which they are basing and asserting their rights with regard to the schedule property. The claims and objections received thereafter will not be binding on my clients and thereafter my clients shall proceed to purchase the schedule property as if there are no claimants/ objections to the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of immovable Property bearing **Site No.1318,** situated at 8th Block, Sr.M. Vishveshwaraiah Further Extension Layout, formed by the Bengaluru Development Authority, Bengaluru, measuring East to West : 24 Meters and North to South : 15 Meters, totally measuring 360.00 Square Meters and bounded on :-

East by : Site No.1301,
West by : Road,
North by : Site No.1317,
South by : Site No.1319.

MOHAN KUMAR K.T., Advocate, No.1051, 20th Main, 53rd Cross, 5th Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru - 560 010. Mob No. 9845172742

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II AT BANGALORE

BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore

O.A. No.449 OF 2022.

Between: Canara Bank (Erstwhile Syndicate Bank), N.R. Colony Branch, Bangalore - 560 019. **...Applicant**

And:

Sri. S. Honnegowda ...Defendants

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993

To,

Sri. S. Honnegowda, S/o. Sri.Shivanna, Aged about 48 years, R/a. No.25, 5th Main, Srirama Nagar, Bangalore - 560 086

Whereas, the Applicant has instituted an Application U/s. 19 of the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 & recovery of sum of **Rs.20,94,000=00** together with current and for other relief's. The above name Defendant is therefore hereby directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or duly authorised agent, in support of the defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on day of **29-05-2023 at 11:00 A.M.** as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal this the **23rd day of January 2023 at Bangalore.**

Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal - II
Bangalore - 560 001

Possession Notice (For Immovable Property) Rule 8-(1)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **IIFL Home Finance Limited** (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) (IIFL-HFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, a Demand Notice was issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower/Co-Borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has **taken possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **IIFL HFL** for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon."The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, If the borrower clears the dues of the **"IIFL HFL"** together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred, at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured assets shall not be sold or transferred by **"IIFL HFL"** and no further step shall be taken by **"IIFL HFL"** for transfer or sale of the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower(s) /Co-Borrower(s)	Description of the Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession
Mrs. Saraswathi V Mathru Enterprises Mr.Murali Mrs.Radhamma K (Prospect No 966181)	All That piece and Parcel of Flat No G 03, Ground Floor(Super builtup area 830 sq.ft., Chikkanamangala Village, Sarjapura, Anekal bazar, Bangalore, 562106, Karnataka, India. Bounded By- East - Road, West - Private Property, North - Site No. 344 , South - Site No. 341.	Rs.59,96,700.00/- (Rupees Fifty Nine Lakh Ninety Six Thousand Seven Hundred Only)	21 - Oct - 2022	16- Feb- 2023

For, further details please contact to Authorised Officer at **Branch Office: "ADAM CHAMBERS," #11, Richmond Road, Bengaluru-560025** or **Corporate Office:** Plot No.98, Phase-IV, Udyog Vihar, Gurgaon, Haryana.

Place: Bangalore , Date: 20-02-2023 **Sd/- Authorised Officer, For IIFL Home Finance Ltd.**

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, "MESCOM BHAVANA", Bejai, Mangaluru - 575 004
Ph: 0824-2885795 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No. MESCOM/PROC/PURC/170/2022-PROC Date : 13.02.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

MESCOM invites short term tender for Manufacture & Supply of following material:

Tender No.	Name of the Material proposed for Procurement	Quantity
MESCOM/2022-23/IND908/ CALL-2	Rain Wears as per Technical Specification	4200Sets

The interested eligible bidders may log on to : **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **20.02.2023.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.) (Proc.), Corporate Office

For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

Fortis HOSPITAL
Banneraghatta Road, Bengaluru

Notice: DISPOSAL OF HOSPITAL MEDICAL RECORDS

In patient Medical Records From (IP No. 163436 to 186801) 01/03/2016 to 28/02/2017 will be destroyed. Whosoever interested can contact the Medical Records Department to collect their records within one month from the date of this notification.

Note: Not applicable for Medico Legal Case, Death, Birth & Paediatric Medical Records

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EQUITAS SMALL FINANCE BANK LTD

Registered Office: 4th Floor, Spencer Plaza, No.769, Mount Road, Anna Salai, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Pincode - 600 002. Ph : 044-42995000, 044-42995050

SALE NOTICE FOR THE SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

E-Auction Sale Notice for the sale of immovable assets under SARFAESI Act, 2002, R/w rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers, Co borrowers and Guarantors that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd., will be sold on **27-03-2023** "AS IS WHERE IS" "AS IS WHAT IS CONDITION" for recovery of below mentioned amount due to Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd., from the following borrowers.

Name of the Borrower/s / Guarantors: 1. K Sujatha W/o K Ajaichudamani, **2. K Ajaichudamani** S/o Rajaiah Naidu, **3. Chinnapapa** W/o Rajaiah Naidu, All Are Residing At No 10-A, 1st Main 2nd Cross, 3rd Main, Ramanjaneya Nagara, Chikkalasandra, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560061. **Loan Account No. ELPMLATL0015466, Claim Amount Due Rs.20,80,232/-** as on 25-11-2021 with further interest from 26-11-2021 with monthly rest, charges and costs, etc., **(Total Outstanding being Rs.26,57,949/- as on 16.02.2023).**

Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property): All the piece and parcel of northern portion of property bearing No. 154, carved out of Sy.No. 23 of Nagadevanahalli, (Bhuvaneshwari Nagar) Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore now within the jurisdiction of BBMP, North by: Property No.155, South by: Southern portion of same property, East by: Property No.135, West by: Road, Measurement: East-West 40 feet and North-South 15 feet Total Measuring 600 sqft situated at within the Sub-registration District of Kengeri and Registration District of Bangalore, Together with all buildings and structure attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to earth, both present and future and all easamentary / mamool rights annexed thereto.

RESERVE PRICE: Rs.36,00,000/- **EMD: Rs.3,60,000/-**

Date of E-auction: 27.03.2023

For detailed terms and conditions of the Sale, please refer to the link provided in www.equitasbank.com & https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net

Date: 20.02.2023 **Authorized Officer,**
Place: Bangalore **Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd.**

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, "MESCOM BHAVANA", Bejai, Mangaluru - 575 004
Ph: 0824-2885795 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No: MESCOM/SEE(P)/EE(W)/AEE(W)/2022-23/ 1013 Date: 16-02-2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement Mode Only)

MESCOM invites tenders on turnkey basis for the following works pertaining to Mangalore & Shivamogga Circles vide respective bid enquiry numbers:-

Sl. No	Name of the Work	Bid Enquiry No
1	Establishing 1x8MVA, 33/11kV Substation at Bailur along with the construction of 33kV line by tapping the existing 33kV Hiriyadka- Karkala line at Bailur for a distance of 1.75kms (LILO arrangement) using UG cable in Karkala Sub-division of Karkala Division on Partial Turnkey Basis	MESCOM/2022-23/ SS/ WORK_INDENT2003
2	Establishing 1x8MVA, 33/11kV sub-station at Elathur by extending the existing 33kV Mulky- Elathur line for the distance of 0.2km (DC) using UG cable in Kinnigoli Section of Mulky Sub-division, Kavoor Division on Partial Turnkey Basis	MESCOM/2022-23/ SS/ WORK_INDENT2004
3	Providing additional 1x8MVA Power Transformer at existing 1x5MVA, 33/11kV Substation at Kavu along with the creation of 2 nos. of 11kV feeders in Puttur RSD, Puttur Division on Partial Turnkey Basis	MESCOM/ 2022-23/ SS/ WORK_INDENT2005
4	Formation of 4 no's. of new 11kV feeders from 110/11kV Konanduru sub-station in order to avoid overloading of existing 11kV feeders in Konanduru section of Bejjuvalli Subdivision, Shimogga Division on Total Turnkey Basis	MESCOM/ 2022-23/ EL/ WORK_INDENT2006

The interested eligible bidders may log on to **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **22.02.2023**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.) (Proc.), Corporate Office

For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. SEE/Tr(W&M)/AEE(Civil)/22-23/Cys-147 Date : 17.02.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Manual Mode Only)

KPTCL invites bid against this **enquiry No. SEE/AEE(C)/ Trans/W&M/DVG/22-23/CYS-147 Dated 17.02.2023** for the works coming in the Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Davanagere. The detailed notification regarding the works called through manual mode can be obtained from the office of the undersigned on or after **20.02.2023** during working hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele),
Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL,
Near Stadium, Hadadi Road, Davangere

CENTRE FOR SMART GOVERNANCE (CSG)

(A Non-profit Society formed by Government of Karnataka under e-Governance Secretariat, DPAR (e-Gov) and registered under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act 1960)

1st Floor, TTMC, Yeshwanthpura, Bengaluru - 560022

No.:E977969 DPAR-CSG0HRD(ICMH)/1/2023-HRM-dparegovsec Date: 17-02-2023

NOTIFICATION

Centre for Smart Governance (CSG), DPAR(e-Gov), Government of Karnataka invites applications from eligible candidates in the areas of IT / ICT for the positions listed below:

1. Technical Project Manager - 05	7. Database Administrator - 03
2. Project Lead - 07	8. System Administrator - 03
3. Business Analyst - 07	9. Consultant - 03
4. Senior Software Engineer - 03	10. Assistant Manager (HR- Recruitment) - 01
5. Software Engineer - 10	
6. Database Designer - 02	

Interested candidates are requested to send their CVs through e-mail to **careerscsg@csgkarnataka.in**

For further details on qualification & experience, please refer **https://csg.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Executive Director
Centre for Smart Governance

DIPR/CP/BCPL/4784/2022-23

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED

Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office: No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612001. **E-Mail id:** crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Phone:** 0435-2432322, **Fax:** 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.75,87,980/- (Rupees Seventy Five Lakh Eighty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty Only)** as on **18-10-2022** together with further interest to be charged from **19-10-2022** onwards, other expenses and any other dues to the bank by the Borrowers / Guarantors **No.1) M/s. Vayuputra Service Station, No.89 Kogilu Village, Yelahanka, Bangalore - 560064. No.2) Mr. G. Ranjith, S/o. M. Govindaraju, No.B-100, 5th Cross, Prakruthi Nagar, Kogilu Road, Yelahanka, Bangalore - 560064. No.3) Mr. M. Govindaraju, S/o. Late Jalige Munishamappa, No.B-100, 5th Cross, Prakruthi Nagar, Kogilu Road, Yelahanka, Bangalore - 560064.**

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank
Schedule - A: (Property Owned by Mr. M. Govindaraju, S/o. Late Jalige Munishamappa)

All that piece and parcel of the Site No.02, Katha No.01, Property situated at Kogilu Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk. Now comes under BBMP. Measuring: East to West - 25 ft. and North to South - 29 ft. = 725 Sq.ft. and bounded on the:- East by - Road, West by - Muniyappa Property, North by - P. Nagaraj Property, South by - Road and Ashwath Kate.

Reserve Price: Rs.33,00,000/-
(Rupees Thirty Three Lakh Only)

Schedule - B: (Property Owned by Mr. M. Govindaraju, S/o. Late Jalige Munishamappa)

All that part and parcel of Property bearing Residential House, Katha No.223/82, Old Kaneshumari No.86 later 78 situated at Kogilu Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore - 560064. Bounded on the:- East by - Doddanarasappa's Property, West by - Road, North by - Road, South by - Prabhakar's House. Measuring:- East to West - 46 Feet, North to South - 41 Feet.

Reserve Price: Rs.1,00,00,000/-
(Rupees One Crore Only)

RE-AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
14-03-2023	City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Yelahanka Branch, 324, 3rd A - Cross, First Phase, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru, Bengaluru Rural, Karnataka - 560106. Telephone No.080-28463272, Mobile No.9341005406.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale:

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Yelahanka Branch, 324, 3rd A - Cross, First Phase, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru, Bengaluru-Rural, Karnataka - 560106. (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No.080-28463272, Mobile No.9341005406. (5)** The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **02.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges / fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place: Kumbakonam, Date: 18-02-2023 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.**0435-2402322, **Fax:** 0435-2431746, **Website:** www.cityunionbank.com

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WESTERN RAILWAY

INSTALLATION AND OPERATION OF WATER VENDING MACHINE OVER MUMBAI CENTRAL DIVISION

No. C45-2-2023-WVM-CLuster- II **dated: 17.02.2023**

Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Mumbai Division, Western Railway, Mumbai Central invites e-Tender from Individuals / Sole Proprietor Firm / Company incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 / Partnership Firm registered under the Partnership Act, 1932 for **Installation and Operation of Water Vending Machine On Stand Alone Basis at various stations over Mumbai Central Division.**

(A) Details of Water Vending Machine units for Installation & Operation in Cluster – II :

Sr. No.	Station	Category of station	Platform no.	Location
1.	Dahisar	C	PF No.2/3	Between pillar no. 10 & 11
2.	Mira Road	C	PF No.2/3	Between Column no. 22 & 23
3.	Mira Road	C	PF no.4	Between Column no. 18 & 19
4.	Bhayandar	C	PF No.6	Near water hut back side of column no. 8
5.	Naigaon	C	PF No.2/3	Between column no. 17& 18 near OHE pole no 47/13A
6.	Vasai Road	C	PF No.2/3	Between Column no. 05 & 06
7.	Vasai Road	C	PF No.4/5	Between Column no. 28 & 29
8.	Vasai Road	C	PF No.06	Between Column no. 08 & 09
9.	Nalla Sopara	C	PF No.2/3	Between Column no. 12 & 13
10.	Nalla Sopara	C	PF No. 4	Between Column no. 21 & 22
11.	Virar	C	PF No.1	Between Column no. 31 & 32
12.	Virar	C	PF No.2	Between Column no. 23 & 24
13.	Virar	C	PF No.3/4	Between Column no. 24 & 25
14.	Boisar	C	PF No.1	Near upper class waiting room
15.	Boisar	C	PF No.2/3	OHE Mast no. 102-2 near stall of M/s R K Gupta
16.	Vaitarna	C	PF No. 2	COP Pole no. 06-07 South end
17.	Saphale	C	PF No.2	COP Pole no. 24-25 middle east
18.	Kelva Road	C	PF No.2/3	COP Pole no. 08-09 South end
19.	Palghar	C	PF No.2/3	Middle near juice stall of M/s Chandanlal Shah
20.	Palghar	C	PF No.01	Near South FOB
21.	Vangaon	C	PF No.2	Near Water Hut South end.
22.	Dahanu Road	C	PF No.1	Under South FOB
23.	Dahanu Road	C	PF No.4/5	COP pole no. 11-12
24.	Udvada	C	PF No.1	North side of KM pole no. 182/2T north of the tree
25.	Udvada	C	PF No.2/3	South side of KM pole no. 182/1 between seating hut and KM pole no. 182/1
26.	Vapi	A	PF No.1	In front of GRP office & New office room pole no. 06 & 07
27.	Vapi	A	PF No.1	Between pole no. 25 & 26
28.	Vapi	A	PF No. 2/3	Between pole no. 10 & 11
29.	Vapi	A	PF No. 2/3	Between pole no. 31 & 32
30.	Valsad	A	PF No.1	North side OHE mast no. 198/6B
31.	Valsad	A	PF No.1	South side OHE mast 197/38B
32.	Valsad	A	PF No.2/3	Between North Side OHE mast no. 198/20 & 198/21
33.	Valsad	A	PF No.2/3	Between OHE mast no. 198/40 & 199/41
34.	Bilimora	B	PF No.1	Between Pillar No. 15 & 16
35.	Bilimora	B	PF No.2/3	Between channel no. 330/340
36.	Navsari	A	PF No.1	Between pillar no. 22 & 23 near PWI office
37.	Navsari	A	PF No.1	Near waiting hall between pillar no. 36 & 37
38.	Udhna	A	PF No.1	Between pillar no. 06 & 07
39.	Udhna	A	PF No.2/3	Between pole no 08 & 09
40.	Surat	A-1	Ground floor	South Side entry opp. UTS window
41.	Surat	A-1	PF No.1	North Side of South FOB between pole no. 10 & 11
42.	Surat	A-1	PF No.1	North side of saloon siding between pole no. 23 & 24
43.	Surat	A-1	PF No.2/3	North side of south FOB between pole no 3 & 4
44.	Surat	A-1	PF No.2/3	South side of OHE Mast No. 266/37 between pole no. 44 & 45
45.	Surat	A-1	PF No.4	North side of South FOB between pole no 05 & 06
46.	Surat	A-1	PF No.4	North side of middle FOB, 20 mts north side from OHE Mast 266/3039
47.	Nandurbar	B	Circulating Area (west)	Station building entry opposite new SSE (Power) panel room
48.	Nandurbar	B	PF No. 1	Between OHE Mast no. 156/21 and toilet block
49.	Nandurbar	B	PF No. 2/3	Between OHE mast no. 156/21 & 156/22
50.	Amalner	D	PF No. 2	Jalgaon End
51.	Dondaicha	D	PF No. 1	Adjoining old parcel office
52.	Vyara	E	PF No. 1	Near water fountain OHE Mast No. 56/29, UP direction
53.	Vyara	E	PF No. 2	Near water fountain OHE Mast No. 56/40. Down direction

Reserve Price per annum : ₹ 21,62,500/- p.a, **Earnest Money :** ` ₹2,24,900/, **Cost of Bid Document including 18% GST :** ₹ 11,800/-, **Amendment/Corrigendum, if any :** Kindly visit website **www.ireps.gov.in/** till tender closing time & date for any amendments/ Corrigendum. **Time and Date for Closure for Submission of e-Tender Document :** Up to 15:00 Hrs. on 14.03.2023 through online website **www.ireps.gov.in/** only, **Date and time of opening of e-Tender :** At 15:30 hrs on 14.03.2023 through online website **www.ireps.gov.in/** only. **Validity of Offer from Date of e-Tender Opening :** 60 Days, **Address for Correspondence :** Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Commercial Department, Ground Floor, Mumbai Central, Mumbai – 400 008. **Tele** : 022-676-44246/44238,**Fax:** 022-676-44299, **Email** : cmictgbct@gmail.com. 1. The e-tender notice & e-tender documents will be available on official web site **http://www.ireps.gov.in**. The same can be used as tender document for submitting the tender/offer. 2. Tender forms are non-transferable and offers duly filled & signed should be submitted in the prescribed tender form only through website **www.ireps.gov.in**, not later than at the scheduled time & date of the tender closing. 3. Bidder/ Tenderer shall be required to deposit Tender Document Cost & Earnest Money Deposit only through the net banking or E-payment gateway i.e. acceptable form as prescribed in the tender document. 4. Bidder(s) / Tenderer(s) may satisfy themselves before submission of his/her/their offer(s) regarding his/her/their financial status, previous experience and ability to execute the work. Bidder(s) / Tenderer(s) shall physically verify the actual site/location and locality of the work to be executed.

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THE RAJAJINAGAR CO-OPERATIVE BANK LIMITED

No.741, 3rd Block,Rajajinagar, Bangalore - 560010.

POSSESSION NOTICE See Rule - 8(1) (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **The Rajajinagar Co-Op Bank Ltd.,** under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the power conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 has issued a Demand Notices calling upon the Borrowers / Mortgagors / Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned In the notice within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers / Mortgagors / Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, Notice is hereby given to the Borrowers / Guarantor / Mortgagors and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, **14.02.2023**

The Borrowers / Mortgagors / Guarantors in particular and the Public in General are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charges of the **The Rajajinagar Co-Op Bank Ltd.,** for an amount interest and Other Charges mentioned below.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

1. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor : 1. Mr. Ashok Kumar R A S/o Late B R Ashwath Narayana **2. Mrs. M Manjula** W/o Ashok Kumar R A **both are residing at**: No.22/1, 5th Main, 6th Cross, J C Nagar, Kurubarahalli, Bangalore-560086.

Total amount mentioned in the notice : Rs.14,94,601/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Ninety Four Thousand Six Hundred One Only) as on **16/11/2022** and interest thereon

Branch : Rajajinagar **Demand Notice Dated : 28.11.2022**

Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing present Municipal No.22/1, PID No.13-66-22/1, 6th Cross, J C Nagar, Laggere Village, Survey No.166, Khatha No.166, Western portion of Site No.22, Bangalore and measuring East to West 18 feet and North to South 40 feet and bounded by the following boundaries: East: Remaining Eastern Portion of Property No.22 belongs to M Narayan, West: Property of Sarojamma, North: 20 feet Road, South: Property of Bette Gowda.

2. Name and Address of the Borrower / Co-Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantor :1. Mr. Dorairaj J S/o Jayarama Mudaliar **2. Mrs. Selvi** W/o Dorairaj J both are residing at No.50, II Cross, II Main Prakashnagar, Bangalore-560021.

Total amount mentioned in the notice : Rs.33,55,971/- (Rupees Thirty Three Lakhs Fifty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy One Only) as on **16/11/2022** and interest thereon.

Branch : Rajajinagar **Demand Notice Dated : 28.11.2022**

Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of the property Municipal No.186/A-81/1, PID No.23-22-81/1, BDA No.186/A, 8th Main, Prakashnagar, Rajajinagar III Stage, Bangalore and Measuring East to West 40 feet and North 15 feet and bounded by the following boundaries: East: Site No.214, West: Road, North: Site No.187, South: Site No.186.

3. Name and Address of the Borrower / Co-Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantor :1. Mr. Gangadhara K S/o Late Kariyappa **2. Mrs. Sukanya** W/o Gangadhara K both are residing at No.762/69, III Main Road, Prakashnagar, Bangalore-560021.

Total amount mentioned in the notice : Rs.1,47,531/- (Rupees One Lakh Forty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Thirty One Only) as on **16/11/2022** and interest thereon.

Branch : Rajajinagar **Demand Notice Dated : 28.11.2022**

Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Survey No.76/1, property No.3, present B D A No.762, Municipal No.762/69-2), III Main, Northern Portion of Western Side, Prakashnagar, Rajajinagar III Stage, Kethamaranahalli Grama, Bangalore and measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 12.6 feet and bounded by the following boundaries: East: Same Number property of the donor Northern portion eastern side, West: Road, North: Property No.4, South: Passage of 5' and Multistoried Staircase and Southern portion retained by donor.

4. Name and Address of the Borrower / Co-Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantor : 1. Mrs. P Kannagi W/o Venkatesh C **2. Mr. Venkatesh C** H/o P Kannagi both are residing at No.U-9, 7th Cross, Ramakrishna Sevanagar, Srirampuram, Bangalore-560021.

Total amount mentioned in the notice : Rs.11,59,484/- (Rupees Eleven Lakhs Fifty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Four Only) as on **16/11/2022** and interest thereon.

Branch : Rajajinagar **Demand Notice Dated : 28.11.2022**

Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Municipal No.9, PID No. 24-37-9, Ramakrishnasevanagar, 7th Cross, Srirampuram, Bangalore and Measuring East to West 20 feet and North to South 25 feet and bounded by the following boundaries: East: Property No.10, West: Conservancy, North: Property No.16, South: Main Road.

5. Name and Address of the Borrower / Co-Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantor : Late D Muniswamy S/o Late Doraiswamy Since Deceased Represented by his legal heirs **1. Mrs. Pushparani** W/o Late D Muniswamy **2. Mr. Venkatesh** S/o Late D Muniswamy **3. Mr. Mahendran** S/o Late D Muniswmy **4. Mr. Ravi** S/o Late D Muniswamy **5. Mrs. Shanthi** D/o Late D Muniswamy all are residing at No.38/D, 1st Cross, 1st Main Road, Prakashnagar, Bangalore-560021.

Total amount mentioned in the notice : Rs.2,44,963/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Forty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Three Only) as on **21/09/022** and interest thereon

Branch : Rajajinagar **Demand Notice Dated : 28.09.2022**

Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.128, 9th Main Road, Prakash Nagar, Rajajinagar, 3rd Stage, Bangalore and measuring East to West 41 feet and North to South 29 feet and bounded by the following boundaries: East: Site No.153, West: Road, North: Site No.129, South: Site No.127.

6. Name and Address of the Borrower / Co-Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantor : 1. Mr. M Murugesh S/o Late Margesh **2. Mrs. V Maheshwari** W/o M Murugesh both are residing at No.137/C, II Main , 4th Cross, Prakashnagar, Bangalore-560021.

Total amount mentioned in the notice : Rs.14,72,521/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Seventy Two Thousand Five Hundred Twenty One Only) as on **01/10/022** and interest thereon.

Branch : Rajajinagar **Demand Notice Dated : 07.10.2022**

Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.261, Municipal No.261/19, 6th Main Road, III Stage, Prakashnagar, Bangalore. PID No.213-12-19 and measuring East to West 34.6+31.6/2 feet and North to South 40 feet and bounded by the following boundaries: East: Road, West: Property No.259, North: Property No.260 & 260/A, South: Property No.262.

7. Name and Address of the Borrower / Co-Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantor : 1. Mr. Sampath P S/o Pancarathnam Naidu **2. Mrs. Manjula R** W/o Sampath P both are residing at No. 4171, 9th Cross, 3rd Main Road, Subramanyanagar, Bangalore-560021.

Total amount mentioned in the notice : Rs.17,82,875/- (Rupees Seventeen Lakhs Eighty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Five Only) as on **30/07/2022** and interest thereon.

Branch : Rajajinagar **Demand Notice Dated : 02.08.2022**

Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Municipal No.6/2, PID No.066-W0058-44, BDA No.4171, ML No.4171/6/2, 9th Cross, Subramanayanagar, 'B' Block, Rajajinagar 2nd Stage, Bangalore and measuring East to West 13 feet and North to South 30 feet and bounded by the following boundaries: East: 'B' Schedule Property of Sri Devanand, West: Other's Property, North: Other's Property, South: Road.

8. Name and Address of the Borrower / Co-Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantor : 1. Mr. Selvam P S/o Late Perumal M **2. Mrs. Shanthi S** W/o Selvan P both are residing at No.E-283, 2nd Main, 3rd Cross, Brammapura, R C Puram, Bangalore-560021.

Total amount mentioned in the notice : Rs.2,53,415/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Fifty Three Thousand Four Hundred Fifteen Only) as on **16/11/2022** and interest thereon

Branch : Rajajinagar **Demand Notice Dated : 28.11.2022**

Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing present Municipal No.46/2 PID No.24-56-46/2, 3rd Cross, Brahmapuram, Bangalore and measuring East to West 15 feet and North to South 26 feet and bounded by the following boundaries: East: Sri K Rajendran Property, West: Road, North: Sri K Kabeer Dassa Property, South: 3rd Cross Road.

9. Name and Address of the Borrower / Co-Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantor : 1. Mrs. Selvi W/o J Dorai Raj **2. Mr

Two persons were arrested on Sunday for allegedly abducting and raping a domestic help in Narsingi, Telangana, on Saturday. According to the police, Shubham and Sumith Kumar Sharma allegedly took the woman in their car on the pretext of giving her work and raped her

FAITH-HEALING

HOLDS SWAY IN THE UNDERBELLY OF SOCIETY

TEAM TNIE

IT was in January 2014 that an American evangelist -- Toufik Benedictus "Benny" Hinn -- was forced to cancel his visit to Bengaluru as he was allegedly going there on a 'faith-healing crusade'. The cancellation followed protests from Hindu right-wingers as well as rationalists and intellectuals.

The latter opposed the visit, questioning the practice of faith-healing from the rationalistic point of view, while the former feared that Hinn's "crusade" was in fact a meeting for conversions.

Faith healing is believed to involve spiritual intervention to bring about physical healing. Many choose it over the modern medical system out of sheer faith of being cured through what they believe to be "spiritual means" at much lower costs as compared to treatment by modern medicine. And all this happens across religious lines.

Nine years before his visit was cancelled in 2014, Benny Hinn had held a 'Miracle Crusade' at the Jakkur airfield in Bengaluru that was attended by nearly 10,000 people. But many went on the rampage after it was alleged that he was a fraudster. In January 2014, the Karnataka High Court, taking note of the 2005 incident, directed the police to ensure all precautionary measures to prevent a repeat of the earlier incident. But Hinn, sensing trouble, cancelled his visit.

In the first week of February 2023, two infants, just three months and two-and-a-half months-old, died on February 1 and February 4, respectively, after they were subjected to a faith-healing practice called 'Daagna', where a child is poked with hot iron rods to drive away diseases. The infants, both girls, were suffering from pneumonia, and instead of being shifted to modern medical facilities, they were taken to two faith-healers separately. The first incident was reported from Samatpur village of Shahdol district in Madhya Pradesh, while the second was from that state's Kathotia village in Sinhpur district. The faith-healer in the second incident, a woman, was arrested, while the one in the first, also a woman, has gone missing.

Unfortunately, faith-healing is rarely reported, although it is known that many people, especially in rural areas – literate and illiterate – prefer faith-healing.

Karnataka, a state reputed for professional education -- both medical and engineering, is no exception to people taking to faith-healing. As most cases go unreported, there is no estimate of the number of such cases in the state.

BIG PICTURE

In Belagavi, faith healers have captivated the minds of many suffering from various diseases and their families after "convincing" them that modern medicine would not heal their ailments. The victims are often uneducated. But there is a disturbing trend of educated people, too, falling into this trap, say doctors in the district.

Dr Madhav Prabhu, Consultant Physician and Cardio-diabetologist, Belagavi, told The New Indian Express, "Faith is a universal phenomenon. It is a human instinct to resort to faith when in despair. As a doctor, I am not an atheist, but I am not superstitious, and this is the distinction not everyone can maintain. Faith can be positive and many times I encourage my patients and their relatives to have faith in God and time, because it gives them confidence, something which is required when in peril. This faith, however, is subject to exploitation by certain 'magical healers' and religious con men who disguise themselves as saints."

> **We have a 15th century mindset. The education system at present does not teach you reasoning. Solution for it is proper education and teaching in rational thinking. Medical practitioners also need to be very strict not to allow finding other alternate solutions**
>
> Prof. Narendra Nayak, National president, Federation of Indian Rationalist Association (FIRA)

Karnataka too has witnessed cases like in Madhya Pradesh, says Dr Prabhu. "Although under control on the surface now, this evil persists in the underbelly of our society. It is commonplace to see patients, who are suffering from jaundice, come with branding marks made with marking nuts or 'bibbe', as they are called in the local language. The patient remains convinced about the jaundice-healing capabilities of this practice, but lands up with fulminant hepatitis which can be fatal. The patient could have been easily saved with modern medicine," he says.

Couples who suffer from infertility are the worst victims of faith-healing as remedies range from local practices to human sacrifice – a life taken in the hope of giving new life.

Since having a progeny is considered so important in our society, faith healers fully exploit such innocent couples, says Dr Prabhu.

Hassan district has more than adequate number of primary health centres with enough doctors. Yet, people prefer faith-healers to get immediate relief. Sarvamangala, who took her three-year-old daughter suffering from skin-related problems to a temple, says she offered curd rice to the goddess and her daughter recovered in three days. She blamed higher costs at government hospitals for her preference to faith-healing.

In Udupi district, which also has a well-developed medical facility network, faith-healing cases go unnoticed as victims hide it. Social activist Dr MV Holla says even some doctors use old analgesics and resort to treatment.

Dr Holla is of the view that spiritual healing, reiki, acupuncture etc, which do not cure diseases, should be regarded as 'faith healing'. He urged the state government to keep a check on all such 'treatment centres' from mushrooming. "Magnetic beds were sold in Hubballi for Rs 1 lakh and some people bought it to get relief from pain," he says.

Though Mysuru is considered an intellectual hub, people here continue to be victims of ignorance and superstition. The rural belt of Mysuru, Chamarajanagar and Mandya districts continues to see people exploited in the name of faith-healing and black magic. While the Kollegal belt is infamous for black magic, rural parts of HD Kote and Periyapatna in Mysuru district, Gundlupet, Hanur and Kollegal in Chamarajanagar district continue to see faith-healers taking advantage of innocent people and luring them with the assurance of cures.

"People in rural pockets still believe that prayers have divine powers and can do miracles to cure disease. But practically, no such things happen. Though there is scientific evidence against faith-healers, people still fall for them. As such cases go unreported, no action is taken against them by the authorities, and they are encashing it," says Anjan Kumar, a physics lecturer.

A social activist in Dharwad, another intellectual hub of the state, says on condition of anonymity that the delay in attending to patients, and lack of facilities at government hospitals force rural people to adopt such practices. "The healthcare system is out of control and hefty bills worry rural people. The proper facilities, adequate number of medical staff and a robust system to spread scientific awareness can help people gain faith in modern medicine," he points out.

With inputs from: Divya Cutinho/Mangaluru; Mallikarjun Hiremath/Dharwad; Tushar A Majukar/Belagavi; Prakash Samaga/Udupi; BR Udaya Kumar/Hassan; Karthik KK/Mysuru; V Velayudham/Kolar

Minor girl in Kerala used as drug carrier, probe is on

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Kozhikode

KERALA State Commission for Protection of Child Rights chairman K V Manoj Kumar said that the commission will file a case over the revelation of a Class 9 student in Kozhikode that she was being used as a drug carrier from Class 7. The family of the girl has submitted a complaint to the Kozhikode Medical College ACP. "The Commission will issue a notice on Monday to Kozhikode City Police commissioner and the district child protection officer for a report on the incident," said Manoj.

The student, who got acquainted with the drug mafia through Instagram, was first given drugs for personal use and then used as a carrier. Her hands had scars due to repeated use of drugs. The issue came to light after the girl's parents noticed the scars and interrogated her about them. The family later approached the police. According to the girl, she was given drugs by former students of the school she befriended through Instagram. The gang initially gave drugs to the student free of cost. Later, they asked her to become a carrier if she wants to continue to get the drugs for free.

The police have started the investigation based on the complaint of the student. As per the girl's statement, many students in the school are using drugs.

Tamil actor Mayilsamy dies at 57

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

RENOWNED comedian and actor **Mayilsamy** passed away on Sunday morning after suffering from a heart attack. The 57-year-old was taken to the hospital, but the doctors confirmed his demise on arrival.

Mayilsamy was known for acting with all the leading stars of the Tamil film industry. Mayilsamy had a career spanning 39 years and 200 odd films. The comedian debuted in the film industry with Bhagyaraj's *Dhavani Kanavugal* in 1984.

Ever since Mayilsamy has performed many small and big roles in several films. He first starred along with Kamal Haasan in *Aboorva Sagodharargal* (1989), and with Rajinikanth in *Pannakkaran* (1990). He became a household name amongst Tamil audiences after 2000. His notable film credits include *Dhool, Vaseegara, Ghilli, Giri, Uthamaputhiran, Veeram, and Kanchana,* among many others. He won the Tamil Nadu State Film Award for Best Comedian for his performance in *Kangalal Kaidhu Sei* (2004).

POWER AND SPEED

A bullock cart race was organised by Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and Hasiru Sene at Siddalingapura village in Mysuru on Sunday | UDAYASHANKAR S

KAMAL BACKS DMK ALLIANCE, SAYS IT IS FOR TN'S WELFARE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Coimbatore

MAKKAL Needhi Maiam (MNM) founder and actor Kamal Haasan on Sunday said he has extended support to the DMK-led alliance for the state's welfare. Campaigning for Congress candidate EVKS Elangovan in Erode East, he said, "We are a maiam (center) and should not be inclined towards any side. But this time we stand on this side."

Indirectly referring to the difficulties he faced during the release of Vishwaroopam, Kamal said, "When the Ammaiyar (Jayalalithaa) threatened me, many people just watched meekly, But (former CM) Karunanidhi called me and said he was with me and I need not fear about anything. I told him the problem was for me and not for the people of the country. But, this time the problem is for the country. So I have come this side."

He added, "I will think later about where I should be permanently. But, now I am here, and being criticized for it. Our country should be secular forever. For that, I have come here."

Makkal Needhi Maiam founder and actor Kamal Haasan welcomed by DMK ministers for campaign ahead of the bypoll in Erode on Sunday | EXPRESS

Meanwhile, election workers in Erode East constituency byelction started the distribution of booth slips on Sunday. The constituency has 2,27,547 voters including 1,11,025 males, 1,16,497 females and 25 others. "There are 238 polling booths, and each booth will have an election standing officer for the distribution of booth slips to voters at their doorsteps," an official said.

ELSEWHERE FROM SOUTH

BRS MLA Sayanna passes away at 71

HYDERABAD: Secunderabad (Cantonment) MLA and BRS leader G Sayanna passed away while undergoing treatment for kidney-related ailments at a private hospital here on Sunday. He was 71 and survived by wife and three daughters. Sayanna had been ailing for the last few months and was admitted to the private hospital three days ago. Of his five terms as an MLA, he was elected thrice on TDP ticket in undivided AP in 1994, 1999 and 2004. **ENS**

One held for stealing passbook machine

THOOTHUKUDI: A 22-year-old man was arrested for allegedly stealing the passbook printing machine of an SBI ATM kiosk in Polpettai main road in the wee hours of Sunday. Sources said the suspect, J Devaraj Sam (22) of Krishnarajapuram, was in an inebriated state when he damaged the kiosk. "Since he could not break open the kiosk, he kicked it and decamped with the passbook printing machine," sources said. **ENS**

A walk between pareto optimality, arrows impossibility

K'TAKA BUDGET 2023-24

THE budget presented by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai is an exercise between pareto optimality and arrows impossibility. The Pareto optimality is to satisfy all without hurting others, whereas the arrows impossibility refers to various institutional constraints which does not allow the satisfaction of all. Bommai has dutifully followed the excellent method of the Union Finance Minister. Karnataka is expected to record growth at 11% per cent in real terms and 20 per cent in nominal terms this fiscal year.

He stated, "This Budget is a promise for development and a better future. With a sense of fulfilment of implementing the programmes formulated for the bright future of Karnataka in this financial year, I am presenting this Budget with the vision of responsibilities, targets and results for the next 25 years." Certainly, envisioning the future is quite welcome but the first step to the future is most important, and therefore we must look at this budget as a step towards this year's programme for growth. Though this budget is seemingly quite favourable and addresses myriad concerns, there are a few challenges. The first one being management of the state finances and public debt. Many critics have pointed out that the state witnessed a sharp increase in public debt from Rs 1.94 lakh crore in 2018-19 to Rs 4.25 lakh crore in 2022-23. This should have been corrected with strong revenue efforts, but state tax revenues increased only by about Rs 10,000 crore above the revised estimates. The budget expenditure in the upcoming fiscal year is placed at Rs 2.86 lakh crore, a 4.77 per cent increase over the revised estimate of last year. This is expected to provide a GDP growth of 7.9%. Certainly a feasible target, but efforts should be made to boost the MSME sector and trade.

DR KHALIL SHAHA
Researcher, Institute for Social and Economic Change Bangalore

The next challenge is to showcase and maintain fiscal prudence that would require cutting down the expenditure on popular schemes. But that may prove detrimental in this pre-election budget. There is almost Rs 7,000 crore (25 per cent) receivable from Centre's GST compensation. Several centrally sponsored schemes like MNREGA, National Education Mission, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Ayushman Bharat and National Livelihood Mission will have to be maintained with reduced Union budget allocation.

Finally, the budget seems to have addressed many issues but failed to focus on the immediate growth drivers. The capital expenditure is to be met from the open market borrowing and help from the union government. The spending on capital expenditure increased only by Rs 12,000 crores and it is expected that this will help to meet the demand for funds from all the capital expenditure projects.

Sharmila arrested for comments against MLA

ENS@ Mahabubabad

THE police on Sunday arrested YSR Telangana Party (YSRTP) president **YS Sharmila** for allegedly making inappropriate comments against Mahabubabad MLA Banoth Shankar Naik. While the cops issued a notice at first, they, subsequently, took her into custody and shifted her to Hyderabad. YSRTP workers staged a rasta roko, prompting the police to reportedly use force to disperse them.

A day earlier, Sharmila, as part of her address during the Praja Prasthanam padayatra in Salar tanda, had criticised the local MLA. Infuriated over this, Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) workers tried to obstruct the YSRTP chief's convoy on Sunday. Additionally, they also vandalised vehicles belonging to the YSRTP apart from tearing up the flexies.

Later in the day, the MLA, along with his wife Dr B Seetha Mahalakshmi and BRS workers, staged a protest in Salar tanda, where Sharmila had spent the night.

Mahabubabad District SP Sharat Chandra Pawar said Sharmila made inflammatory statements during her meeting, which have disrupted the local harmony. Obscene speeches have been made to insult the local MLA Banoth Shankar Naik personally, giving rise to a law and order problem, he added. Subsequently, the permission for the Praja Prasthanam padayatra in Mahabubabad district has been revoked, he said.

A BRS activist, Nunawath Ashok, lodged a complaint under the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act against Sharmila at the Mahabubabad One Town police station.

EDITORIAL

"I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw something back

Maya Angelou

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

POWER STRUGGLE IN AFGHAN TALIBAN AND ITS POSSIBLE FALLOUT

A public spat between the powerful interior minister and deputy head of the Taliban, Sirajuddin Haqqani, and its reclusive supreme leader, Hibatullah Akhundzada, appears to have sown the seeds of an intense power struggle in the terror outfit that captured Kabul a couple of years ago. While dissension within the Taliban leadership was well known, this was the first time it spilled out into the open. Addressing a gathering, Haqqani said monopolising power and hurting the reputation of the entire system were not beneficial, emphasising the situation cannot be tolerated. The loaded statement was an oblique reference to Akhundzada, who rarely stirs out of Kandahar, hardly appears in public, has hardline religious scholars and tribal leaders for company, and sets policy goals written in stone. It came in the wake of the appalling ban on women and girls from universities and schools after the sixth grade despite assurances to the international community about safeguarding women's rights. Haqqani said the Taliban need to show maturity, patience and good behaviour in their engagement with the people, so they do not end up hating them and the religion. Wise words from a man widely believed to have sheltered Ayman al-Zawahri at a Kabul hideout before the Al Qaeda chief was taken out by a US missile last year.

The latest blow for women is the regime's ban on the sale of contraceptives, spinning it as a conspiracy against reproductive rights. Afghanistan's shadowy policymaker would let the country remain a basket case that provides terror sanctuary and thrives on the export of narcotics rather than reform itself from a medieval theocracy and integrate with the global community. In contrast, Haqqani appears to be positioning himself as a moderate amenable to universal human rights and dignity of life. He seems to be indicating to the Western world that he is readying to do business with them, hoping to metamorphose as, say, a Machiavellian Prachanda who captured power in Nepal using the levers of democracy, learning that jaw jaw was better than war war.

If Haqqani wins the power struggle eventually, it could empower Pakistan since his network was midwifed by its Deep State. As for India, it has little leverage despite abundant goodwill in Afghanistan because of the development works executed there over the years. While continuing humanitarian aid, India can do little beyond staying vigilant and keeping up multilateral pressure to block terror spillage into its border.

END CONFUSION OVER TAXING ONLINE GAMING

The GST Council has deferred the discussion on the issue of taxing online gaming once again—this time, the convenor of the Group of Ministers (GoM), which is looking into the matter, is apparently busy with electioneering in Meghalaya. So, a crucial issue, which can make or mar the online gaming industry, is still hanging in the balance. The government must show more urgency in addressing the issue, which has already led to situations where online gaming platforms have been served tax demands of thousands of crores—multiple times the revenue they earned in a financial year.

For quite some time, the government has been delaying the decisions on determining the valuation of the services provided by online gaming platforms and the rate at which they should be taxed. The GST Council formed a GoM headed by Conrad Sangma, chief minister of Meghalaya. It has been almost two years since the GoM was formed (in May 2021). Three main issues need to be decided by the GoM—valuation of the services provided by the platform, tax rates (18% or 28%) and whether online gaming is a game of skill or a game of chance. The GoM is apparently in favour of a 28% tax on the total betting amount instead of an 18% tax on the platform fee. The online gaming industry is distressed by the fact that the GoM is tilting towards taxing the whole betting amount rather than the service fee earned by them. The industry is okay with a 28% tax rate as long as it is levied on only the service fee they charged and not the whole betting amount.

And even as confusion prevails over the taxability of the gaming industry, the tax department has started serving tax demands based on the betting amount. A Bengaluru-based company with an annual turnover of ₹2,100 crore in FY22 was served a tax demand of ₹21,000 crore last year. The case is already in the Karnataka High Court. The delay by the government in deciding the issue is not helping the industry, which is hoping for some light at the end of the tunnel. The government might decide to 'tax' online gaming heavily, treating it as a form of betting—as it did in the case of cryptocurrencies—but it must take a quick decision on the issue so that online gaming companies can decide their future course of action.

QUICK TAKE

INVISIBILISING THE POOR

The latest Economic Survey refers to the UN Multidimensional Poverty Index, suggesting 41 crore Indians exited poverty between 2005-06 and 2020-21. But that doesn't mean poverty has reduced because the data doesn't reflect the post-pandemic impact of unemployment and price rise. And claims of rapid economic growth don't explain why 80 crore people will get free rations for another year. Undoubtedly, the number of poor has risen. People having housing and sanitation benefits are still impoverished if they have no income to afford food. We need a non-populist method of counting the poor and assessing the actual status of poverty.

The Frankenstein that Pakistan fed and nurtured has begun to devour it, even targeting those in uniform

THE BLUFF AND BLUSTER OF A BANKRUPT NATION

A SURYA PRAKASH

Former Chairman of Prasar Bharati and scholar of democracy studies

SOUMYADIP SINHA

Pakistan is in doldrums. Its economy has hit rock bottom, inflation is at a staggering level, food and fuel shortage is crippling life and finally, the Mujahideen has unleashed its wrath on the very nation that nurtured and pampered it for decades.

Few nations in the world have worked so diligently to undermine their own fortunes as Pakistan has since its birth in 1947, thanks primarily to its hatred, envy and intolerance towards India and absence of humanistic values.

But just as it happens to human beings in distress, the desperate Pakistani leadership has lost its balance, blowing hot and cold and making foolhardy noises just to reassure itself. That is why Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif made placatory noises earlier but later did a somersault to please the domestic audience.

Last month, he declared that his country "had learnt its lessons" from the wars with India and that they want to live in peace with their neighbour. But he displayed his true colours several days later when he warned the world that Pakistan was a nuclear power and that even children know that India cannot look at it with an evil eye. "We will crush it (India) under our feet" he said. Have you ever heard such bluff and bluster from a nation which is on the verge of bankruptcy?

Further, despite its economic crisis, it persists with its laughable efforts to "liberate" the people living in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Its leaders organised 'Kashmir Solidarity Day' on February 5, took out rallies and also passed a resolution in their national assembly seeking the "liberation" of Kashmir!

Pakistan's deep state has fed and nurtured the Mujahideen since 1947. The Pakistan military, the ISI and the political establishment supported and funded terrorist operations in the name of Islam, believing that a proxy war that would inflict "a thousand cuts" on India would bring the neighbour to its knees. In later years, many militant groups have sprung up utilising this licence to target internal "enemies" in Pakistan like the Shia Muslims and the Sufis, apart from the Hindus and others belonging to Indic religions.

Having promoted the Taliban, Pakistan is getting a taste of its own medicine with the emergence of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan. In other words, the Frankenstein that Pakistan fed and nurtured has begun to devour Pakistan, even targeting those in uniform. Their handlers got the first big shock in 2014 when over 140 people were killed in a Peshawar school, of which 132 were children. This gory event was followed by suicide bombings which killed hundreds of people in later years.

However, what happened last month was something the Pakistan military and ISI had not signed up for. A suicide bomber cut through high-security police lines and blew himself up inside a Shia mosque, killing over 100 persons and injuring another 220. Most of the bomber's victims were policemen. Now, Rana Sanaullah, Pakistan's interior minister, has admitted that it was a terrible mistake to have created the Mujahideen and that the time had come for united action against terrorists.

But, this is just one little aspect of Pakistan's attitude towards India. The history of terror and sabotage goes back 75 years. Pakistan sent infiltrators to Kashmir in 1947 with the hope of illegally occupying the border state. Pakistan once again waged war against India in 1965.

In 1971, as the people of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) revolted against the regime in Rawalpindi, Pakistan launched fresh attacks on India on the Western front. Then came the Kargil War in 1999, when Gen. Musharraf sent in his soldiers to occupy the key heights in Kargil. Indian soldiers displayed extraordinary bravery, killed the intruders and regained those mountain peaks. But the Pakistan government refused to admit to sending the infiltrators and accept the bodies of their dead soldiers. The year 2001 saw the greatest assault on the symbol of India's democracy when Pakistani terrorists targeted Parliament House in New Delhi.

But this is not the end of the story. Pakistan-trained terrorists set off bombs on Mumbai's local trains, killing over 200 passengers in 2006.

Then came the deadliest terror attack in Mumbai on November 26, 2008, when hundreds of people were killed in two hotels, the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus railway station, and several other buildings by a bunch of Pakistan-trained terrorists who came via the sea.

Given these acts of terror and sabotage, Pakistan must surely go down as the most perfidious nation in the world, and therefore unworthy of any compassion or help. The people of India should not forgive and should not forget.

Pakistan is desperately beseeching the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to bail it out of its current mess. The IMF is laying down strict conditions. For example, it wants the government to cut electricity subsidies and raise the per unit price of electricity. Secondly, it wants the government to increase the price of petrol and LPG. Petrol now costs Rs 272 (PKR) a litre and the price of LPG has hit the roof too. Both these conditions will have a crippling effect on the common man as inflation will cross 50%. Also, the IMF does not want Pakistan to utilise the bailout package to service its debt.

We must allow Pakistan to stew in its own poison. India, although a Hindu-majority state, should beware of succumbing to domestic bleeding hearts, which is a major failing of the Hindus for centuries.

It should never forget the wounds inflicted by Pakistan over the 75 years. Nor should it forget that although Pakistan is sinking financially, it continues to train and dispatch terrorists across the border into India.

Unfortunately for Pakistan, there is a tough-as-nails Narendra Modi government in New Delhi. This government is quite distinct from the Congress and coalition governments of the past which were humming and hawing and lacking the courage to take on a recalcitrant neighbour who is unworthy of friendship. That is why the Modi government has bluntly told Pakistan that talks and cross-border terrorism cannot go together.

Therefore, if Pakistan expects a "Hindu" response from the so-called "Hindu nationalists", it will be in for a big surprise. It has to now contend with Modi's 'Naya Bharat' in which there will be no misplaced sympathy.

(suryamedia@gmail.com)

A MONK, HIS *MADHUPAYASA*, AND THE WORM OF JEALOUSY

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

There is a strongly cautionary *Jataka* about a jealous monk that I would like to retell. The story could also be seen as an instance of workplace competition. I was not a big fan of monkhood at first since it took able-bodied men out of the workforce and made them go on the dole instead of living a 'productive' life. However, I realised over time that an individual has the right to follow his chosen path and perhaps be of service to society like many modern Indian monks are. Alas, the monk in this tale had no reason to find a purpose in life beyond filling his belly.

As to what was eaten in ancient India, Xuan Zang, a 7th century Chinese Buddhist pilgrim touring India, reportedly noted in his journal that 'Among the products of the ground, rice and barley are most plentiful. With respect to edible herbs and plants, we may name ginger and mustard, melons, pumpkins and others. Onions and garlic are little known and few people eat them. The most usual food is milk, butter, cream, soft sugar, sugar candy, the oil of the mustard seed, and all sorts of cakes made of grain.' The list sounds very familiar even today and the last sounds like rotis and puris, which modern Indians continue to relish.

This may have well been the daily portion of the monk in this tale, who lived alone in a little village in the Upper Gangetic Plains. He was greatly enabled in his existence by a rich man in the village.

Life was totally secure for this village monk, with his belly always full. He lived in simple but cosy quarters and received only respect and courtesy from all. He slept as peacefully as a happy child and was entirely free to bathe, meditate and take long afternoon naps.

Into this idyll one morning came an older monk, of peaceful, learned ways. The village monk met him with due courtesy. He gave him a welcome drink of buttermilk. He offered the visitor his best spare robe. He heated water and kept out bowls of soapnut powder and oil for the visitor's bath—all of which he was well-provided for by charity. Indeed, the village monk bustled about his preparations as proudly as a diligent housewife to demonstrate the many comforts of his cottage.

After the bath it was time to eat, which again was no problem. The village monk led the visiting monk to the rich man of the village, who promptly invited them for the midday meal. A feast was offered to which both mendicants did full justice after chanting the customary blessing.

After the meal, the visiting monk conversed knowledgeably and eloquently with his host on any number of subjects. They ranged from religious topics to insightful observations on the seasons and festivals, the overt and subtle difficulties of *chaturmaas*—the four-month halt during the rains when travel was forbidden—and news of the towns and villages visited along his travels.

PTI

One morning came an older monk, of peaceful, learned ways. The village monk met him with due courtesy. He gave him a welcome drink of buttermilk

The rich man was charmed and took greatly to the visiting monk. He showed him the utmost respect and entreated him to come by every day for food and conversation.

That night, for the first time ever, the village monk was unable to sleep. The worm of jealousy had entered his head and writhed about so much that it kept him awake. Burnt up by his night of misery, the village monk found himself unable to properly wake his visitor for the morning round of alms.

The *Jataka* says that he scratched so softly on the visiting monk's door that not even a mouse could have heard him. He did not go home to share the morning alms but spitefully ate them under a tree. When he had to go home, he could scarcely mask his animosity and spoke curtly several times to the visitor, finally leaving the cottage in a foul temper.

The visiting monk felt hurt by such bad behaviour. But being wiser, he also understood the agony that the village monk was going through and pitied him deeply. He meditated all day until he achieved a higher level of inner peace that transcended the village monk's harsh, negative vibrations.

Later that day, the village monk went to call on the rich man, who asked after the visiting monk. The village monk glibly lied that he had knocked on the visitor's door but heard no answer.

The rich man then filled the village monk's alms bowl with *madhupayasa* made of rice, milk, ghee, sugar and honey. After the monk had eaten this treat, the rich man took away the bowl, washed it in scented water and refilled it to be taken back to the visiting monk.

Unwilling to share this rich, delicious offering, although he had fully eaten his share, the village monk wondered frantically how best to dispose of it. After searching hastily around the village, he found a field that had just been burnt by farmers to make the soil better. It glowed with live coals on which the village monk viciously poured the *madhupayasa* to the last drop. It went hissing up in smoke, leaving behind the miasma of burnt milk. The smell was like the sweet scent of roses and jasmine to the village monk.

But when he went home triumphantly, he found that the visiting monk had quietly gone away without a word to anybody. This was a massive anti-climax which left the village monk feeling flat and drained after the violence of the jealousy that had convulsed and consumed him.

The *Jataka* says that it took the village monk 1,001 lives after that to recover his peace of mind, which had burnt to ashes as utterly as the *madhupayasa* that he had flung away with such hatred for the visiting monk. And it's just as likely, going by Indian values, that there were karmic consequences to wasting precious food, the product of hard work by so many people.

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MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Cheetahs in India

Apropos of *12 more African cheetahs arrive in MP* (Feb 19). The cheetah was declared extinct in 1952 by the Indian government. It is unfortunate. Hunting, illegal trafficking and destruction of natural habitats are the main reasons for animal extinction. The reintroduction of cheetahs into Indian forests is a happy occasion for wildlife lovers. The government should take steps to protect wildlife sanctuaries, biodiversity and water bodies in order to protect wild animals.

P Victor Selvaraj, Palayamkottai

Adapting to new habitat

Twelve cheetahs from South Africa have arrived at Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh, as a part of the Indian government's efforts to reintroduce cheetahs in India after their extinction for the last seven decades. The success of the project will depend on how the African cats adapt themselves to the Indian conditions.

Deba Prasad Nayak, Cuttack

Citizens want transparency

In a democracy, transparency is the best way to make everybody silent, but unfortunately this is not used by the government in Parliament. A transparent inquiry into the inflated share values of a business group not only makes the arguments subside but also gives Parliament time to discuss more important public issues.

T Kailash Ditya, Hyderabad

Rest in peace, Atsu

It is heartbreaking to learn that the Turkey quake has snuffed out former Ghanaian footballer Christian Atsu's life. Rescuers found Atsu's body beneath the rubble of his flat in Hatay in southern Turkey.

N J Ravi Chander, Bengaluru

Congrats, Team India

India has retained the Border Gavaskar Trophy by registering a win against the Aussies in Delhi, taking a 2-0 lead. The spin duo of Ashwin and Jadeja stood out in both this win and the Nagpur win but Jadeja gets special credit as he achieved his career-best bowling figures of 7 for 42. We hope the team continues its winning streak in the remaining two tests.

S Vaithianathan, Madurai

Social security

Apropos of *With India ageing, social security for all should be the thrust* (Feb 19). The writer's suggestions to make our health insurance policies acceptable globally and provision a part of the GST collection for social security measures are really worth considering by the Central and state governments for the senior citizens' welfare.

C P Jayraman, Kochi

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Amit Shah @AmitShah
Rulers like Bajirao, Nanasaheb to Ahilyabai Holkar took forward the tradition started by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj to rebuild the destroyed temples

Bhagwant Mann @BhagwantMann
According to NCB reports, there is an improvement in the criminal cases in Punjab. This is a very good news. Now only rule of law will prevail in Punjab.

Ashok Gehlot @ashokgehlot51
Today, listened to the pain & agony of the victims of the Sanjivani Credit Co-operative Society scam, reiterated the commitment to get them justice.

Philippines Navy completes BrahMos training

The operator training for India-made cruise missile is part of critical package in the deal between two countries

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

ADMIRAL Hari Kumar awarded 21 personnel of Philippines Navy their interim missile badges and pins in a valedictory ceremony for completing the Operator Training BrahMos cruise. Taking an important step towards induction of the BrahMos missile into the Philippines Navy, the Philippines Marine Corps wrote on its Facebook page that the trainees "were awarded their interim missile badges and pins by no less than the Indian Navy Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Radhakrishnan Hari Kumar, in a valedictory ceremony for the Operator Training of the Shore Based Anti-Ship Missile System (SBASMS)."

The training that ran from January 23 to February 11, it 'focused on the operations and maintenance of some of the most important logistics package of the SBASMS that will be delivered to the Philippines'. In a first, the Philippines approved a $374.96 million (₹2700 cr) contract for the purchase of a shore-based anti-ship missile system from India in January 2022. The training is a critical package included in the Philippine Navy Shore Based Anti-Ship Missile System Project Contract that was signed by the Philippines and India in 2022.

Indian Navy chief Admiral Hari Kumar during the valedictory ceremony

"The induction of the BrahMos missile into the Philippine Marine Corps will strengthen your maritime capability and will also contribute to our collective maritime security within the region...I sincerely hope that you'll always cherish the bonds of friendship you had during your stay here," said Adm. Kumar during his valedictory remarks.

Col Romulo D Quemado PN(M)(GSC), Commander of the Coastal Defense Regiment (Provisional) and End-User of the system, lauded the team for the successful accomplishment of the training and expressed his optimism on the future of the CDR with the trained personnel. The acquisition was viewed as a boost to the Philippine Navy's capability to defend the country's maritime borders and will further complement the efforts of the PN surface assets in patrolling the Philippine, as per the Philippines Navy.

According to the deal the Philippines will get three batteries of missile system having a range of 290 km with a speed of 2.8 mach (thrice the speed of sound). The deal also encompasses training for operators and the necessary integrated logistics support package, said the sources.

As reported earlier by the TNIE, India on January 11, 2022 successfully test-fired the extended-range sea-to-sea variant of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile.

The extended-range version of BrahMos was developed after India's full membership of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), which removed caps on the range of the cruise missile. The plan has been to initially extend the range of attack to 450 km.

The BrahMos missile can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft or land. India has been in talks with Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand and few other nations that have shown interest in the system.

POWER GAMES

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Election 2024

NITISH IS ALL GEARED UP TO TAKE ON MODI

The pieces of the 2024 jigsaw are beginning to fall into place. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is emerging as the primary challenger to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the next year's Lok Sabha elections. He has left little doubt that he wants to be the face of the opposition. Sources close to him say that he is already the leader of Mahagathbandhan in Bihar, comprising the Congress, the three Left parties and Lalu Yadav's Rashtriya Janata Dal, besides the Janata Dal (United). All he needs is a green signal from his allies, especially the Congress, to make the alliance go national by including other regional parties. He had met Sonia Gandhi before Mallikarjun Kharge became the Congress president and asked her to initiate efforts to unite the opposition. She asked him to wait till the end of Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra. Now that the yatra has ended, Nitish has called upon the Congress to start talks with opposition parties. At a CPI(ML) function on Saturday, Nitish called upon the Congress to use the momentum of the Bharat Jodo Yatra to unite the opposition. He said he was getting calls from other opposition parties, and the Congress must make its move. Congress leader Salman Khursheed who was present at the meeting said, *"Jo aap chahate hain, wahi sab chahte hain. Par pyaar mein ek samasya hoti hai ki pehle kaun kahega* I love you." Sources said the Congress would call for opposition unity at its Raipur plenary between February 24-26, and things will start rolling from there. Meanwhile, the Mahagatbandhan government in Bihar will hold a public meeting at Purnea on February 25, while the Congress will be in the middle of its plenary. Opposition unity will be the focus of both meetings, sources said.

Kuno overpopulated? Govt says no worry, experts differ

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

AS 12 South African cheetahs reached Kuno-Palpur National Park (KNP), the total tally of cheetahs reached 20 in India. Bhupendra Yadav, Union of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, said the KNP landscape could sustain cheetah population up to 40, and the government is striving to achieve this population viability. The minister counted the buffer area, which is spread over 6500 sqkm dotted with 53 villages, that can open the potential gate for human-wildlife conflict.

It raises the question about the carrying capacity of the KNP which has core area of around 748 sq. km area. The 'Action Plan for Cheetah Introduction (APCI)' report, which was published in January 2022, assessed the carrying capacity based on the existing prey base as 21. However, the official claim of taking the population of cheetah up to 40 in the whole Kuno landscape couldn't going down better with experts.

Different research papers show that free-ranging carnivore like cheetah requires at least 80 sq. km to a maximum up to 130 sq.km. "My assessment, which is based on the size of the park and suitable habitation for cheetahs, is that the carrying capacity would not be more than 10-11 cheetahs," says cheetah project mastermind MK Ranjitsinh, the country's foremost conservationist and the man behind the cheetah introduction project. Some say that the government has not invested in other selected sites in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan which made them to give such inflated statements. Other sites, where government had to invest to create metapopulation of cheetahs.

Even the APCI report states that 'managing different site populations as a metapopulation enhanced their chances for long term survival, as well as to maintain genetic diversity'. As per our plan, Mukundara Tiger Reserve is supposed to be developed as breeding centre with five cheetah but no effort has been made so far," said a scientist. Though the government has announced ₹10 crore for fencing-related work in Gandhi Sagar- Bhainsrorgarh Wildlife Sanctuary complex (MP). This fund has been diverted from an afforestation project CAMPA. SP Yadav, member secretary National Tiger Conservation Authority, who also led the Project Cheetah said that this fund is yet to be released to start fencing work. "Once the KNP reaches its viable population of 40 cheetahs, then we will translocate it to other locations," said SP Yadav. He also downplayed the Kuno landscape's human-wildlife conflict, saying that state government will compensate loss of people if cheetah either attack them or their livestock. Statements of the government is showing a misplaced priority which rattle experts.

UGC writes to guvs, CMs over dearth of local language books

KAVITA BAJELI DATT @ New Delhi

THE University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairperson, Prof M Jagadesh Kumar, has written to the governors and chief ministers of states expressing concern that the textbooks and study materials are unavailable in local languages for many higher education courses.

He urged them to produce textbooks in their mother tongue through writing or translation for the subjects of which textbooks are not available in the local language.

In his letter, he asked them to prepare a list of such textbooks, reference books, and study material which is unavailable in the local language; identify scholars who can write or translate; to take other necessary actions to support all such endeavours to strengthen the efforts of producing good quality textbooks in local languages and to encourage the teaching-learning process in the mother tongue.

"Teaching through Indian languages is a key area of focus of the National Education Policy 2020. The policy envisages the importance of teaching and teaching materials in the mother tongue," he said. He said it is heartening to note that textbooks in the mother tongue are promoted and used by higher education institutions in India. Teaching is also being imparted in the mother tongue in many college and university undergraduate programmes in social sciences, commerce, etc. This has benefited students from all strata of our society, particularly the disadvantaged sections and those residing in rural and remote areas, he said.

> **Teaching through Indian languages is a key area of focus of the NEP 2020. The policy envisages the importance of teaching and teaching materials in the mother tongue**
> Prof M Jagadesh Kumar, UGC chairperson

"But it is also a matter of concern that the textbooks and study materials are unavailable in local languages for many of the courses in higher education, science, commerce and professional courses," he said.

He said that the promotion of writing or translation of textbooks and the teaching process in undergraduate and postgraduate levels in higher education through the mother tongue will have greater results in improved GER from 27 per cent to 50 per cent by 2035, increased access to disadvantageous social groups, and better reach. Prof Kumar said they had constituted an apex committee of vice-chancellors from different states to take the task forward.

$100-bn Aircraft Deal

A MISSED OPPORTUNITY TO BOOST ATMANIRBHARTA?

The mega deal signed by the Tatas to acquire 470 aircraft, with an option of buying 370 more, has surprised industry watchers. Experts say for such a large number of aircraft, the salt-to-steel group could have set up a production unit in India which could have created many jobs. They point out that the Tatas had decided to set up a plant in India to manufacture 40 C-295 military transport aircraft. Tata Advanced Systems had signed an industrial partnership with Airbus Defence and Space to acquire 56 transport aircraft. 16 of these aircrafts are to be received in a flyaway condition, and 40 are to be built in India. For this purpose, a manufacturing unit has been set up in Vadodara, Gujarat. Experts say when it makes sense to set up a production unit for 40 aircraft, why not for 400? They point out that neighbouring China is already making Airbus aircraft locally. India's aviation sector has been growing at an impressive rate. It had crossed a 25% annual growth rate, and post-Covid recovery has been swift, with traffic growing by 15% over the last year. The country's economy, too, is growing at a fast pace. India will soon be the world's most populous country. The country's largest airline, Indigo, operates around 300 aircraft and plans to add 500 more to its fleet. The Indian civil aviation sector currently operates 800-900 aircraft, compared to 4500-5000 aircraft in China. With India overtaking China in terms of population along with steady economic growth, the country would need hundreds of aircraft in the coming years. In this situation, would it not have been right to think about making India a manufacturing hub of civilian aircraft, experts wonder.

Joy ride: Selfies points, cafes along NE highways

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

ROAD travelling in India especially in northeastern states — dotted with landscaped vistas and picturesque locales — is set to become a pleasant experience as the ministry of tourism has started developing 'vantage points' along the national highways. The ministry has planned to create a 'resting place' for commuters at 100 selected locations in seven states in the northeastern region to promote tourism.

Union tourism and culture minister G Kishan Reddy, who also holds the portfolio of development of the North East Region (DoNER), said that the government will create amenities including restaurants, cafes, toilets and viewing decks; where the travellers could unwind and also take selfies from the alloted points. At an interaction held in Delhi recently, the Union tourism minister shared the status of various projects under his ministry and the future plans.

"Usually while on road, people see something amazing like a beautiful view of sunset or a lake, and they want to take a photograph or just take a break for a while before moving on to their journey, but can't due to lack of facilities. So, our idea is to create such viewing points for tourists and travellers where they can eat and refresh themselves," said the minister at the launch of 'Best Tourism Village Competition Portal', an initiative to appreciate efforts made to preserve natural and cultural resources in villages.

"The sites will also have a dedicated space from where they can have breathtaking views and take photographs; selfies... The work has already begun at 40 locations in collaboration with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the ministry of development of north eastern region (DoNER)," he added.

Reddy further informed that the tourism and petroleum ministries had jointly decided to make provisions of clean toilets at petrol pumps located on highways across the states.

"We have spoken with petrol pump owners associations. Petrol pumps abroad have neat and clean rest rooms for travellers. We have already had a meeting with the associations. Other ministries and departments will be working together on various tourism projects," he said.

The ministry of road transport and highways (MoRTH) has been working on developing world class wayside amenities.

In March 2021, the ministry had announced plans to create facilities at more than 600 locations across 22 states in the next five years. As per the plan, different services inlcuding fuel stations, electric charging stations, food courts, retail shops, ATMs, toilets with shower facility, playing area and clinics are to be developed at a distance of every 40 km along the current and upcoming highways and expressways.

According to the MoRTH, 144 Wayside Amenities (WSAs) have already been awarded and 72 are under bidding stage.

'Public convenience, ATMs every 40km'

In March 2021, the ministry of tourism had announced plans to create facilities at more than 600 locations across 22 states in the next five years. As per the plan, different services inlcuding fuel stations, electric charging stations, food courts, retail shops, ATMs, toilets with shower facility, playing area and clinics are to be developed at a distance of every 40 km along the current and upcoming highways and expressways.

Patients with silicosis are 4 times more likely to get TB, says ICMR

KAVITA BAJELI DATT @ New Delhi

INDIA doesn't have a separate national health programme for silicosis, even as most patients suffering from the fibrotic lung disease, caused by inhaling tiny silica dust, are three to four times more likely to get tuberculosis (TB), said an ICMR study. The study, published in the Nature journal, said that if India wants to meet the global target of eliminating the two lung diseases by 2030, it needs to integrate silicosis control efforts with the TB control programme.

It also said silicosis was associated with treatment failure and death due to TB, with a higher rate of treatment discontinuation among silico-tuberculosis patients than TB patients without silicosis. It is estimated that over 12.9 thousand deaths globally occurred due to silicosis, a lung disease caused by breathing in tiny bits of silica, a common mineral found in sand, quartz and many other types of rock, with an estimated 0.65 million disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) in 2019. Silicosis mainly affects workers exposed to silica dust in jobs such as construction and mining. India has set an ambitious target of eliminating tuberculosis by 2025, five years ahead of the global Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of 2030. For the study, Dr Rupani conducted a retrospective cohort study evaluating TB treatment outcomes in Khambhat block, in Gujarat, between 138 patients with silico-tuberculosis and 2,610 TB patients without silicosis.

"TB is one of the most prevalent diseases among patients with silicosis. Patients with silicosis are three to four times more likely to get TB than those who do not," said Dr Mihir P Rupani, scientist, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)-National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH), the author of the study. Patients with both silicosis and TB are given the combined diagnosis of silico-tuberculosis, the true burden of which is unknown mainly due to a lack of surveillance and insufficient healthcare access, Dr Rupani told this newspaper.

The study found that patients with silico-tuberculosis had six times higher odds of experiencing relapses of TB, four times higher odds of developing drug-resistant TB, three times higher odds of death due to TB, and five times higher odds of treatment failure as compared to TB patients without silicosis. It suggested that all patients with silicosis should be screened for TB and treated according to national TB program guidelines, while all patients with TB who have a history of occupational dust exposure should be evaluated for silicosis and provided appropriate rehabilitation, it added.

DEMOLITION
The National Green Tribunal has directed authorities in Bengal to demolish a hotel constructed in the Sundarbans in violation of environmental norms. The mangrove forests is also a UNESCO World Heritage site.

2 LABOURERS KILLED IN ROOF COLLAPSE IN GHAZIABAD

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	37	18	Mumbai	34	23
Bhopal	35	16	Panaji	30	23
Jaipur	33	18	Patna	31	18
Amritsar	29	13	Lucknow	32	16
Chennai	31	23	Port Blair	31	23
Kolkata	34	22	Imphal	28	12
Srinagar	11	-2	Chandigarh	30	15

Caste clashes polarise MP villages

Dalits, SCs fight over offering prayers with support of Bhim Army & Adivasi outfit

ANURAAG SINGH @Bhopal

A confrontation involving dominant OBCs and a major Scheduled Caste (SC) community over alleged blocking of Dalit devotees from offering prayers at Shiva temples took place in at least three villages of Khargone and Khandwa districts of southwest Madhya Pradesh on Mahashivratri (Saturday).

Three FIRs were lodged in two such incidents in Khargone district, while the adjoining Khandwa incident was resolved amicably following police intervention.

In Chhapara village of Sanawad area in Khargone district, an argument about offering prayers at a temple on Mahashivratri flared up with heavy stone-pelting between the OBCs (Marathas, Patels and Gurjars) and SC Balai community, resulting in injuries to at least 14 people.

It all started with a dispute between two groups that took place three days back, when the OBC groups complained to the police about the felling of a Banyan tree by Dalits. The Dalits want to build a temple of Dr BR Ambedkar on that land,

Gujjar women protest following the OBC and Dalit clash in Chhapra village of Khargone district | EXPRESS

close to the temple whereas the OBC groups allegedly don't allow the Dalits to offer prayers.

The police had defused the crisis three days back with both sides, but on Mahashivratri they again came face-to-face over the alleged stopping of Dalit girls from offering prayers at the temple built by the three OBC communities.

According to sub-divisional officer police (SDOP) Vinod Dixit, separate FIRs have been lodged. While the SC complainant Premlal named 17 persons in the complaint (based on which FIR has been lodged under IPC Sections and SC/ST Atrocities Act), the other side's complainant Ravindra Rao Maratha has named 33 persons. In the adjoining Kasrawad area of the same Khargone district, the police registered a complaint against four women and a man (from OBC and general category) on the complaint of the Balai caste (comes under the SC category) women. Further, they alleged that their children, including girls, were assaulted by dominant caste men and women during Mahashivratri prayers.

However, the alleged stopping of Dalits from offering prayers at the temple, was nowhere mentioned in the FIR lodged on the complaint of the SC category woman Manju Bai Kanade. In the neighbouring Khandwa district's Bailwadi village, however, timely police intervention defused the situation caused by similar allegations.

In all these incidents, young activists of the Bhim Army and tribal outfit Jai Adivasi Yuva Shakti (JAYS) were seen on the ground, taking up the cause of Dalits and put pressure on cops to lodge cases.

It was on February 12 only that these two outfits had occupied the centrestage of the mega rally in Bhopal, where Bhim Army head Chandrashekhar Azad Ravan had announced a third front of SC,ST, OBC and minority groups to take on the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress in the year-end MP Assembly polls.

Helibooking for Char Dham to come via IRCTC

NARENDRA SETHI @Dehradun

THE REGISTRATION for the Char Dham Yatra, which has made a major contribution to the state's economy, will begin on February 21. The government has tied up with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to book tickets for heliservices in the Char Dham Yatra. The pilgrimage will begin with the opening of the portals of Gangotri and Yamunotri on April 22, followed by Kedarnath on April 25 and Badrinath Dham on April 27.

The Uttarakhand government has decided to book heli service tickets through IRCTC in an attempt to streamline and simplify the yatra. A fresh tender process is underway for the heliservice. A three-year contract will be signed with nine companies for heliservice operations from Guptkashi, Sirsi and Phata. So far, tickets were booked online through Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam (GMVN).

"IRCTC has a robust system of booking railway tickets," Uttrakahand Civil Aviation Department Authority (UCADA) additional executive officer Anil Singh told this newspaper, "The tender process for Kedarnath heliservice is going on. IRCTC is being considered for online ticket booking." Most tickets for Kedarnath heliservice are booked online while around 30% tickets are booked through companies operating the heliservice. "The tourism department has advised pilgrims to register before the yatra and undergo health check-ups. They are also advised to move slowly towards the camps. Passengers coming from plains can adapt themselves to the climate there", state tourism secretary Sachin Kurve said.

BHOPAL DIARY

ANURAAG SINGH
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Digvijaya Singh's MLA son warns Cong

Though there is an unease in the opposition party over Bhim Army-Azad Samaj Party chief Chandrashekhar Azad Ravan's plans of building a third front of SC, ST, OBC and minorities in 2023-end MP assembly polls, second time MLA and ex-minister Jaivardhan Singh is the first Congress politician to publicly speak about it. Jaivardhan, the young Raghogarh (Guna) MLA son of ex-CM Digvijaya Singh has publicly rung the alarm bells for his party, saying any front as proposed by the Bhim Army head will only end up splitting the anti-BJP vote.

4-times BJP MP's focus is on Chitrakoot seat

Political circles in Vindhya region are keenly eyeing four-times BJP MP from Satna seat Ganesh Singh's deep focus on Chitrakoot assembly segment of his constituency, during the ongoing state-wide Vikas Yatra of Shivraj Singh Chouhan government. A powerful Kurmi (OBC) leader, Singh has been focussing most on Chitrakoot (out of the seven assembly segments of his Lok Sabha seat), which the BJP has won just once (2008) in the last 66 years. Speculations are rife that Singh may contest assembly polls from the same MP-UP border seat.

BJP is working on Ghar Vapasi in Vindhya region

Just a few weeks after the Katni mayor Priti Suri (who won July 2022 mayor poll as rebel BJP candidate) returned to parent party fold. The saffron party is said to be working on another major Ghar Vapasi in Vindhya region, which could jolt a newcomer party's big plans in MP. Two senior BJP leaders, including a cabinet minister are believed to be working on actualising the grand Ghar Vapasi of the leader, who too had created history in July 2022 urban local body polls. Importantly, the Vindhya region is high on BJP's agenda in the poll year.

Murders by cow vigilante: How cops of two states have messed up case

HARPREET BAJWA/RAJESH ASNANI @ Chandigarh/Jaipur

IN the unfolding events since the murder of two Muslim youths in Haryana's Bhiwani, two police versions – one from Haryana and the other from Rajasthan to which the youth belonged – have tied the two police forces in knots amid charges of discrimination.

The two youths — Nasir and Junaid — were said to be cow smugglers who were allegedly abducted from Rajasthan's Bharatpur and taken to Nuh (Haryana) and then done to death by cow vigilante (gau rakshak)in Bhiwani, Haryana.

The victims were found charred inside a vehicle in Barwas village on February 16.

The Haryana Police has received a complaint from the mother of accused Dulari Devi, saying that the pregnant wife of the accused Srikant Pandit was allegedly manhandled by a team of Rajasthan Police which resulted in a miscarriage. However, Rajasthan Police denied the charges.

Srikant's mother said in her complaint with the Nuh Police that 30-odd policemen entered her house to question Shrikant.

VHP, Bajrang Dal members stage protest demandeding CBI inquiry into Bhiwani's murder case in Gurugram on Saturday | PTI

When they were told he was not in the house, they started beating up her family members. They also allegedly hit her and her daughter-in-law Kamlesh in the abdomen.

She has also alleged that the Rajasthan Police team forcibly took away her two sons, Vishnu and Rahul. Nuh Superintendent of Police Varun Singla said, "We received the complaint Saturday evening. We have started investigations.

Rajasthan Police have denied Dulari's allegations. On the other hand, the role of Haryana Police is also under suspicion as it is alleged that the force had allowed the accused to go, citing jurisdiction, when Srikant and others came to the Nuh police station. Now, the Haryana Police has started a probe against its own personnel.

Police sources said the accused Mohit Yadav alias Monu Manesar and others had brought the victims from a village in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan to the CIA police station of Ferozpur Jhirka in Haryana's Nuh, asking the local cops to arrest them. The police turned them away saying the case did not come under their jurisdiction. One of the witnesses claims the two victims were appeared badly injured and asked for water.

CELEBRATING HISTORY
Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurates first phase of 'Shiv Srishti' theme park based on the life of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Pune on Sunday | PIB

Joshimath redux: NDMA team visits Doda

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

THE Geological Survey of India (GSI) has submitted its report to administration on the Joshimath-type cracks in about two concrete structures due to land sinking in the mountainous Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir while a team of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) experts also visited the area to study and analyse the land sinking.

Deputy Commissioner Doda Vishesh Paul Mahajan told this newspaper that the team of NDA experts visited the Nai Basti village, Thahtri in Doda yesterday to take stock of land subsidence there. The experts collected samples of land from the villages for detailed analysis on the land sinking.

According to officials, the land measuring 80x200 sqmt stretch close to Old Highway has been hit by the land sinking in Nai Basti village. At least 21 concrete structures, including 19 houses, a mosque, have developed cracks rendering these houses unsafe for living. After the land sinking, authorities evacuated the affected people to safer areas. Most of the affected families are living at their relatives' houses, while some are living at a relief camp.

Maoists' diktat to J'khand youth: Join us or be ready to face consequences

MUKESH RANJAN @Ranchi

ALREADY haunted by Improvised Electronic Device (IEDs) planted by Maoists in Kolhan jungles of Jharkhand, village youths are now being threatened by the red ultras to join their squad, failing which, their hands will be chopped off and legs will be broken. Notably, the Maoist have planted IEDs in Kolhan jungles of West Singbhum to check security forces entering into the jungles, due to which, regular incidents of blasts are taking place, injuring the security forces and the villagers as well.

As many as 6 IED blasts injuring 15 security personnel reported since January 11, besides several others which goes unreported. Two civilians also died in the IED blasts triggered by Maoists in October-November, 2022. According to villagers, a group of 40-50 Maoists have been visiting their villages under Tonto Block and asking the youths, both men and women, passing a dictat to join their organization or be ready to face dire consequences. The villagers are being asked forcefully to attend the meetings called by them or their hands will be chopped off and legs would be broken.

"The villagers here are terrorised by the fresh dictat issued by the red ultras, and hence, the village youths are migrating to other places out of any untoward incident," said villager in Tonto requesting anonymity. They are visiting the households during the night asking the youths that it is mandatory for them to attend their meetings, failing which, their hands will be chopped off, he added.

Another villager informed that following the dictat issued by Maoists, 'Mage Parab,' the principal festival celebrated among the Ho and Munda people in Jharkhand, was postponed to avoid any untoward incident. Chaibasa SP Ashutosh Shekher, however, said that no such reports have reached to the police, without denying any such possibility.

"As of now, no such reports have been received from the area but the Maoists definitely harass people living adjacent to their camps," said the SP.

Interestingly, the Maoists, by distributing pamphlets in the villages' adjacent to Kolhan jungles, warning villagers not to enter deep into the jungles as they may walk over an IED and lose their lives. According to police, despite the fact that Maoists have planted IEDs in the entire area, forces are advancing slowly into the jungles with full determination and have established several temporary security camps in their core areas.

Chaibasa SP Ashutosh Shekher informed that IEDs have been planted in 2-3 square km area of Kolhan jungles which they are trying to protect so that police may not be able to reach there.

Villagers also asserted that they have been warned by the Maoists not to enter into the jungles as the land mines planted by them might explode claiming their lives or they may get critically injured. As per the message given to the villagers, the Maoists have planted hundreds of landmines to prevent security forces enter into the jungles.

Red terror at villages

According to villagers, a group of 40-50 Maoists have been visiting their villages under Tonto Block and asking the youths, both men and women, passing a dictat to join their organization or be ready to face dire consequences. The villagers are being asked forcefully to attend the meetings called by them or their hands will be chopped off and legs would be broken.

HIMACHAL

6k orphan kids to benefit from CM's Sukh Aashray Yojana

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

ABOUT 6,000 orphan children of the state benefited from the 'Mukhya Mantri Sukh-Aashray Yojana' started by the Sukhvinder Singh Skhu led Himachal Pradesh Government.

While addressing a program organized on Saturday at Mandi Circuit House, Himachal Pradesh CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said that about 6,000 orphan children of Himachal Pradesh would be benefited from the 'Mukhya Mantri Sukh-Aashray Yojana'. He also added that the state government has decided to adopt these children as "Children of the State." Under the scheme, provisions have been made for funding their higher education, pocket money, self-employment and 3 Biswa land with an assistance of ₹3 lakh for the construction of the house and many more.

He said that the present government, in its short tenure, has taken steps in the direction of system change and intends to extend the benefits of all its welfare schemes to eligible beneficiaries.

₹2K cr deal struck to 'purchase' Sena name & poll symbol, alleges Raut

SUDHIR SURAYWANSHI @Mumbai

SHIV Sena (Thackeray faction) leader Sanjay Raut on Sunday alleged that "deals worth ₹2,000 crore" have been struck to "purchase" Shiv Sena as a party as well as its 'bow and arrow' symbol.

The Election Commission of India allotted the Shiv Sena name and symbol to Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde.

"I believe... deals and transactions worth ₹2,000 crore have been done so far to get the election symbol and name ... This is a preliminary figure and 100% true ...Soon many things will be revealed. This has never happened in the history of the country," Raut tweeted.

He said a builder close to the ruling dispensation shared the information with him. Raut said his claim of Rs 2,000 crore deal is backed by proof which he would disclose soon.

Naresh Mhaske, the spokesperson for Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde), hit back at Raut, saying he had lost his mental balance. "Uddhav Thackeray and his group have lost the people's confidence. Uddhav Thackeray factions should accept the EC order. We had a majority, so the ECI ruled in our favour. Sanjay Raut should go to any neurological experts and check his health and brain. Otherwise, he should get admitted to a mental hospital in Thane," Mhaske said. NCP chief Sharad Pawar refused to speak on the controversy.

Mumbai BJP chief Ashish Shelar said he did not give importance to the allegations made by the Raut. He said that no one believes in Raut's statements and remarks. In June last year, Shinde had rebelled against Uddhav and toppled his MVA government by convincing around 40 MLAs to defect and join forces with the BJP.

Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde and his Lok Sabha MP and MLAs are planned to visit Ayodhya. After that visit, he will carry the 'bow and arrow' symbol to the people through a yatra across the state.

After the ECI, the major question before Uddhav is how to retain his MLAs and elect representatives. As per law, they have to follow the whip issued by the Eknath Shinde because his party has now been recognised as real Shiv Sena.

If Uddhav and his MLAs do now follow the whip during the state assembly Budget session due last week of February, then they may face disqualification.

Uddhav has decided to knock the Supreme Court doors against the Election Commission of India's decisions.

ONE

person was killed and 10 were injured on Sunday after a pair of shootings in Tennessee

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • SW: Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	7	-7	TDS	Los Angeles	21	9	LC
Colombo	30	23	LC	Melbourne	24	16	HR
Dhaka	31	22	TDS	Moscow	-4	-13	HR
Dubai	24	18	SNY	New York	14	6	LC
Houston	25	19	SNY	Singapore	30	24	TDS
Istanbul	13	6	LC	Toronto	4	-1	LC
London	14	7	LC	Washington	16	6	LC

SHOWING STRENGTH TO RIVAL

A US Air Force B-1B bomber flies with F-16 fighter jets over South Korean peninsula during a joint air drill on Sunday | AP

US flies bombers amidst fresh N Korean threats

ICBM test to boost nuclear attack capacity, says Pyongyang

A test launch of a Hwasong-15 intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) at Pyongyang International Airport in Pyongyang, North Korea on Saturday | AP

SEOUL

NORTH Korea said on Sunday its latest intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) test was meant to further bolster its "fatal" nuclear attack capacity and threatened additional powerful steps over upcoming military drills between the United States and South Korea.

The US responded by flying long-range supersonic bombers in a show of force later on Sunday for separate joint exercises with South Korean and Japanese warplanes.

North Korea's official news agency *KCNA* said its launch of the Hwasong-15 ICBM was organised "suddenly" without prior notice at Kim's direct order.

KCNA said the launch was designed to verify the weapon's reliability and the combat readiness of the country's nuclear force. It said the missile was fired at a high angle and reached a maximum altitude of about 5,770 kilometres, flying a distance of about 990 kilometres for 67 minutes before accurately hitting a pre-set area in the waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan.

The steep-angle launch was apparently to avoid neighbouring countries. The flight details reported by North Korea show the weapon is theoretically capable of reaching the mainland US if fired at a standard trajectory.

The Hwasong-15 launch demonstrated the North's "powerful physical nuclear deterrent" and its efforts to "turn its capacity of fatal nuclear counterattack on the hostile forces" into an extremely strong one that cannot be countered, *KCNA* said.

Later on Sunday, US B-1B bombers and other aircraft separately trained with South Korean and Japanese fighter jets over and near the Korean Peninsula. A South Korean military statement said Sunday's training reaffirmed Washington's "iron-clad" security commitment to South Korea.

North Korea is sensitive to the deployment of US B-1B bombers, which are capable of carrying a huge payload of conventional weapons.

On Sunday, Kim Yo Jong, sister of Kim Jong Un, accused South Korea and the US of "openly showing their dangerous greed and attempt to gain the military upper hand and position in the Korean Peninsula."

"I warn that we will watch every movement of the enemy and take corresponding and very powerful and overwhelming counteraction against its every move hostile to us," she said. *AP*

Turkey ends rescue efforts except in 2 provinces; Blinken vows $100mn in aid

ISTANBUL

TURKEY has ended rescue efforts in all provinces except the two hardest hit by massive quake, the Turkish disaster agency said on Sunday.

"In many of our provinces, search and rescue efforts have been completed. They continue in Kahramanmaras and Hatay provinces," the agency's chief Yunus Sezer said.

Sezer said search and rescue efforts continued at around 40 buildings in the provinces on the 14th day but expected the number to fall by late Sunday.

There had been abundant coverage of rescue teams finding survivors but it has now slowed down, with no survivors found in at least 24 hours.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken took a helicopter tour on Sunday of one of the provinces worst-affected by earthquake in southern Turkey and northern Syria and pledged a further $100 million in aid to help the region.

Mustafa Ozdimir helps his family as they collect goods from his collapsed shop in the city of Antakya, Turkey on Sunday | AFP

"This is going to be a long-term effort," Blinken said at Incirlik Air Base. "The search ...unfortunately, is coming to an end. The recovery is on, and then there will be a massive rebuilding operation."

The aid includes $50 million in emergency refugee and migration funds and $50 million in humanitarian assistance.

He toured Turkey's toured Hatay with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu.

"When you see the extent of the damage, the number of buildings that have been destroyed, it's going to take a massive effort to rebuild," Blinken said after the tour.

Also, some 1,05,794 buildings checked by Turkey's Environment and Urbanization Ministry are either destroyed or so badly damaged as to require demolition, the ministry said in a statement on Sunday.

Of these, 20,662 had collapsed, the statement said. The damaged or destroyed buildings contained more than 3,84,500 units, mostly residential apartments.

The mayor of Hatay says his province suffered around 21,000 deaths in the earthquake, more than half of the total number of 40,689 confirmed fatalities in Turkey. *Agencies*

FRANCE TO SEND UKRAINE ARMOURED VEHICLES

France said on Sunday it will begin delivering the armoured vehicles it has promised Ukraine in its war against Russia by next weekend

VEHICLES BY END OF WEEK

The vehicles, of the AMX-10 type and sometimes described as "light tanks," are used for armed reconnaissance and attacks on enemy tanks

The first vehicles will be sent to Ukraine "by the end of next week," Defence Minister Sebastien Lecornu told *Le Parisien* newspaper

He declined to specify the number of vehicles in the first batch, saying he did not want to give Russia any "strategic information"

AMX-10, a French armoured fighting vehicle

TRAINING

Training of Ukrainian crews on the AMX-10 was now "nearly complete," Lecornu said

Overall training of Ukrainian military was "intensifying", Lecornu also said, both in France and Poland, a fellow NATO member

Starting in March, 600 Ukrainian troops would undergo training every month, he said

President Emmanuel Macron promised in early January that France would send AMX-10s, after months of hesitation because of fears of escalating the conflict with Russia

AMX-10 VEHICLE

According to the French defence ministry, AMX-10s are highly mobile, "powerfully armed" and offer protection against light infantry fire

Their combat weight is 20 tonnes, around a third of that of France's Leclerc battle tanks

The French armed forces have begun to replace AMX-10s, first developed in the 1970s, with more modern vehicles called Jaguar

FINDINGS

Police identify terrorists in Karachi attack

PESHAWAR

THE heavily-armed Pakistani Taliban militants who carried out an audacious attack on the office of the Karachi Police chief have been identified as residents of two tribal districts in northwest Pakistan bordering Afghanistan, police said on Sunday.

The incident took place at 7.10 pm local time on Friday, during which Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terrorists stormed the five-storey Karachi Police Office (KPO) building situated in the country's most populous city.

The outlawed TTP claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement issued by its spokesperson Mohammad Khurasani.

According to police, terrorists Zala Noor and Kifayatullah were identified as residents of north Waziristan and Lakki Marwat districts respectively.

Both terrorists conducted complete recce of the location for a month before the attack. They wanted to target the Additional IG office in the police office, they said.

Police conducted a raid at the house of alleged terrorist Kifayatullah in his village Wanda Ameer in Lakki Marwat district on Saturday and interrogated his family members.

Kifataullah (in his 20s) had fled from home five months ago and since then the family were not aware of his whereabouts.

The family members said they came to know about Kifayatullah's presence in Pakistan after the Karachi blast.

Police sources said Kifayatullah was a trained terrorist and had a history of frequent visits to Afghanistan.

He fought in the Afghan war from the Taliban side and had affiliation with TTP's Tipu Gul group, they said. *PTI*

Israeli strikes kill 5, medieval period buildings destroyed

BEIRUT

ISRAELI airstrikes targeted a residential neighbourhood in the Syrian capital of Damascus early on Sunday, killing at least five people and wounding 15, Syrian state news reported.

Loud explosions were heard over a central area of the capital around 12.30 am local time, and *SANA* reported that Syrian air defences were "confronting hostile targets in the sky around Damascus."

SANA reported that five people had been killed, among them a soldier, and 15 civilians wounded, along with "destruction of a number of residential buildings." It also reported that the strikes had damaged buildings connected to a medieval citadel in Damascus.

However, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a UK-based war monitor, reported that 15 people, including a woman, were killed in strikes.

Director General of Antiquities and Museums Mohamad Awad said that the damaged buildings around the Damascus Citadel were arts and heritage institutes. "It's without a doubt that it will cost a lot to rebuild or restore some of the buildings..." Awad said, adding that the strike destroyed "rare and expensive" equipment and machinery that has been hard to obtain due to sanctions.

There was no statement from Israel on the attack. *AP*

People inspect the damage of medieval citadel in Damascus on Sunday | AP

Pak prez under fire for pressing EC to declare election dates for Punjab

ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN President Arif Alvi has come under scathing attack from ministers of the ruling coalition for allegedly acting on former premier Imran Khan's advice to put pressure on the country's electoral watchdog to announce poll dates for provincial assemblies in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab.

President Alvi, who is from Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, on Saturday invited Pakistan's Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja for an urgent meeting on February 20 to discuss poll dates for the two assemblies.

The letter was written after the president did not receive a response from the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on his previous letter written on February 8.

Pakistan President Arif Alvi

In the second letter, the president expressed his displeasure over the 'apathy and inaction' on the part of the electoral watchdog. In separate statements, the interior, defence and law ministers criticised the president and reminded him of his constitutional position.

"Arif Alvi should act as [the] president of Pakistan. You should not act as Imran Khan's spokesperson," Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah was quoted as saying by *The Express Tribune* newspaper.

"The president has nothing to do with announcing the election date," he said.

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif also criticised the president for "interfering" in the electoral watchdog's affairs. "Mr Arif Alvi, stay within your constitutional limits," Asif tweeted. "Don't do politics. If not (for) your own, think about the honour of your position," he added.

Law and Justice Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar reminded the president that the Constitution did not authorise him to give dates for the provincial assembly elections. He said Alvi should not criticise the ECP on the directives of his 'leader'.

The provincial assembly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was dissolved on January 18. *PTI*

MISERY

Myanmar landmine takes a heavy toll on people

BANGKOK

THE 3-year-old boy had taken only two steps from his mother's lap when a deafening explosion rang out. The blast caught the woman in the face, blurring her vision. She forced her eyes open and searched for her son around the jetty where they'd been waiting for a ferry, near their small village in south-central Myanmar.

Through the smoke, she spotted him. His body lay on the ground, his feet and legs mangled with flesh peeled away, shattered bones exposed.

"He was crying and telling me that it hurt so much," she said. "He didn't know what just happened."

But she did. The boy had detonated a landmine, an explosive device designed to mutilate or destroy whatever comes into its path.

File photo of a young landmine victim learns to use his new prosthetic limbs at Hpa-An Orthopedic Rehabilitation Center in Karen State, Myanmar | AP

Landmines have been banned for decades by most countries, since the UN Mine Ban Treaty was adopted in 1997. In 2022, 390 people were victims of landmines and unexploded ordnance in Myanmar, more than a 37% increase from 2021, according to figures compiled by UNICEF. Overall, 102 people were killed and 288 were wounded, with children making up some 34% of the victims, compared with 26% in 2021.

Despite incomplete numbers, experts agree the increase in Myanmar is the largest ever recorded. The military also uses civilians as human shields, a practice widespread in the country for decades but raising alarms with increasing mine incidents. *AP*'s analysis found the military, known as the Tatmadaw, forced people to walk ahead of troops to detonate potential landmines in their path, protecting their own troops.

One man in Myanmar's western Chin state described how soldiers took him, his pregnant wife and their 5-year-old daughter captive, making them and 10 other civilians walk ahead, beating them with rifles if they refused.

"I thought today is the day I die," said the man, who spoke on condition of anonymity. They escaped—no mines detonated during their march. *AP*

ASIA MATTERS

INDONESIA

Police to deport mafia fugitive back to Italy

Indonesian police said on Sunday they will escort back to Italy an Italian-Australian fugitive who was arrested in Bali after seven years on the run in connection with drug trafficking and organised crime. Antonio Strangio, 32, appeared on Interpol's "red notice" list when he was stopped and detained in Bali on February 3 after arriving from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Bali police spokesperson Satake Bayu Setianto cited safety reasons in refusing to say when Strangio will be deported to Italy, where he's wanted on charges of trafficking 160 kilograms of marijuana. The suspect was shown to reporters at an airport news conference given by the police and was escorted to the departure hall on Sunday afternoon

MALAYSIA

12 suspected of being involved in a scam arrested

The Singapore Police Force (SPF) on Sunday informed that 12 people have been arrested in Malaysia after they were suspected to be involved in a scam syndicate targeting Singaporeans. 14 people were also arrested in Singapore and investigated by SPF for helping the syndicate by laundering criminal proceeds in Singapore

THAILAND

Govt sites hacked to promote gambling

Thailand's Ministry of Digital Economy and Society (DES) on Sunday revealed that two-thirds of the 500 cyber attacks on government websites last year were committed by hackers who wanted to elevate their gambling services. Chaiwut Thanakhamanusorn, DES Minister explained that gambling sites set their codes and scripts within the government websites to increase the hits as well as viewers. They are also known to operate within the websites of 20 ministries and private sector bodies. Their main targets included educational sites and public health agencies. To tackle this issue, the Police Cyber Taskforce has been active in charging online gambling gangs that hack websites of the private sector

₹7,600 cr have been invested by foreign investors on the Indian equity markets as they turned net buyers last week

New ITR forms seek more disclosures from taxpayers

Individual taxpayers should provide information such as income from cryptos, and whether they have opted out of new tax regime in previous years

MONIKA YADAV @ New Delhi

THE Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has come out with the new income tax return (ITR) forms for the assessment year 2023-24 well in advance. This will give enough time to the taxpayer to apprise themselves with the new changes made in these ITR forms, which will come into effect from 1 April 2023.

The finance ministry in its circular said that, "no significant changes have been made to the ITR forms in comparison to the last year. Only the bare minimum changes necessitated due to amendments in the Income Tax Act, 1961, have been made."

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget 2023 speech proposed next generation common Income Tax Return forms for all taxpayers. It may be recalled that in November 2022, CBDT had circulated the draft version of the 'Common ITR form' where all ITR forms from ITR 1 to ITR 6 were proposed to be merged. This was aimed at bringing ease of filing for the tax payers and reducing the time taken by them to file tax returns.

No common ITRs as yet

However, new ITR forms notified by the tax department are not in line with all these announcements. For the assessment year 2023-24, there will be seven ITR forms for different classes of taxpayers.

ITR form 1 (Sahaj) is meant for resident individuals with income up to ₹50 lakh per annum from salary, one house property, other sources like interest etc, and agricultural income up to ₹5,000. Similarly ITR 4 (Sugam) is for the resident Hindu undivided family (HUF), individuals and firms other than limited liability partnerships (LLPs) with income up to ₹50 lakh from business and profession computed under sections 44AD, 44ADA, or 44AE.

It is to be noted that the individuals and HUFs not having income from business or profession (and not eligible for filing Sahaj) can file ITR Form 2, whereas those having income from business or profession can file ITR Form 3. Meanwhile, persons other than individuals, HUFs, and companies such as partnership firms, LLPs, etc. can file ITR Form 5. Companies other than those claiming exemption under Section 11 can file ITR Form 6. In addition, trusts, political parties, charitable institutions, etc. claiming exempt income under the Act can file ITR Form 7.

Changes

While the tax department has claimed there are very few changes in ITR forms from the previous year, tax experts claim new ITR forms have increased disclosures for taxpayers.

"Overall, the new ITR forms notified by the CBDT for FY2022-23 (AY 2023-24) have increased the disclosure requirements on the part of the taxpayers, especially the individual taxpayers. For instance, individuals and HUF having business or professional income are required to provide more information regarding opt in and opt out of new tax regime in previous year/current year," S Vasudevan, Executive Partner, Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan Attorney said.

"Further, such individuals or HUF have to now make specific disclosures regarding advances from related parties. Some of the changes are basically to plug the gaps that were there in the earlier forms. For instance, separate schedules for set-off of current year capital losses against current year capital gains income have been added for salaried individuals using ITR-2," Vasudevan added.

Specific schedules have been made in the returns for disclosing income from Virtual Digital Assets (VDA) such as cryptocurrencies for which a special tax regime was introduced in last year's budget.

"Tax provisions for taxation of VDAs were introduced from FY2022-23 hence the addition of a new schedule is in line with the expectation," Saraswathi Kasturirangan, Partner with Deloitte India said. The schedule relating to VDA makes the intent and interpretation clear that loss suffered on a particular VDA will not be allowed to be offset against the gain from other VDAs. Jain, who is a CA by profession and former president of the Institute of Chartered Accountant said, it would have been better if the finance ministry could come out with the next generation common income tax return form for all the taxpayers. "However, this too is a welcome move. The early notification of the ITR forms will help taxpayers in getting the refund sooner. Now the taxpayer can file their return even in April and get the refund or assessment done within a few days," Jain stated.

MAJOR CHANGES IN INCOME TAX RETURN (ITR) FORMS FOR INDIVIDUALS

ITR FORM	CHANGES
ITR1 (For resident individuals up to ₹50 lakh income)	Question on deposit of ₹1 Cr (in single deposit/aggregate) in one or more current account is omitted.
ITR2 (For Individuals and HUFs not having Income from Profits and Gains of Business or Profession)	**1.** Details of income from foreign retirement benefits accounts on which exemptions was claimed in the previous year to be furnished. **2.** New schedule added for disclosure on income from transfer of virtual digital assets. It seeks details on date of acquisition, date of transfer, nature of income (CG or Business Income), cost of acquisition, etc. **3.** In case of donations entitled for 50% deduction subject to qualifying limit Donation Reference Number to be provided.
ITR3 (For individuals and HUFs having income from profits and gains of business or profession)	**1.** New form seeks information on whether opted for new tax regime in earlier years, (ii) whether opted out of new tax regime in earlier years and (iii) option for current assessment year. **2.** Two new fields related to turnover from intraday trading and income from intraday trading added under Part A - Trading Account. **3.** New schedule added for disclosure on income from transfer of virtual digital assets.
ITR4 (For resident Individuals, HUFs and Firms (other than LLP) having total income up to ₹50 lakh and income from business and profession)	**1.** New form seeks information on whether opted for new tax regime in earlier years, (ii) whether opted out of new tax regime in earlier years and (iii) option for current assessment year

MONEY MATTERS

HOW INDIA'S GROWTH STORY COULD BE YOURS TOO

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

SOURAV ROY

IT is the future that you buy into today. When you invest in equity assets, you tap into businesses expected to show profit growth in the years ahead. You buy shares of such companies at low prices today to achieve multi-fold market returns over the next 10-15 years. Share prices of highly profitable companies align with the growth in profits. That is despite short-term volatility in their values due to many market factors.

India's economic growth prospects play an essential role in the future trend of the stock market. A lot is going for the economy if one must believe experts. A new article published in the Reserve Bank of India's latest bulletin highlights four key factors that could drive the India story. These include infrastructure creation, digitisation, green transition, and youth empowerment. The government's focus on these areas was highlighted in the Union Budget presented earlier this month. According to the article, these factors are expected to yield dividends beyond the near term by lifting India's economic growth.

In the Union Budget unveiled earlier this month, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman allocated a substantial amount towards infrastructure creation. The government proposes to spend ₹10 lakh crore in 2023-24, a jump of 33% over the previous year. There is also a plan to incentivise the states to spend on infrastructure creation. Capital expenditure on infrastructure leads to productive asset creation. Revenue expenditure provides for running the day-to-day expenses, repaying loans and providing relief through subsidies. However, that has hurt India's government finances significantly over the years. Governments have constantly paid for an increase in expenditure through excessive borrowing causing more problems. An increased unproductive government expenditure adds to inflation.

Over the past few years, the government has intended to boost capital expenditure and reduce revenue expenditure. It is reflected in the data showing that capital expenditure is higher than revenue as a percentage of total expenditure. It is an excellent time to think about the long-term and look for businesses that ride on the increase in capital expenditure. You can take help from professional advisors or use technology to create a portfolio of stocks or mutual funds that benefit from India's expansion.

The creation of digital payments infrastructure in India is another significant development. There are over 23 crore unified payment interface or UPI transactions each month, a significant increase from 14 crore recorded in the year-ago period. That shows the convenience of the 'India stack' that combines the power of your Aadhaar and the bank account. There is already a pilot launched in major cities with a central bank-backed digital currency or CBDC. Some companies could help you ride the digital payments wave.

The emphasis on green initiatives is another reason to invest regularly. Companies working in technology for green energy, generators of non-conventional power and storage could be your important sectors from an investment standpoint.

The biggest enemy you got against your money is your inertia. You cannot afford not to invest now, or you would do it later are lame excuses to keep your money safe. Inflation is stubbornly high, and the latest credit policy announced last week clearly showed those concerns.

You need to invest regularly to benefit from the India growth story. If you regularly invest through an index or mutual fund, you can quickly spread your risk. The chances of earning a return higher than inflation are higher in the case of equity assets. If you regularly invest for 15 years, you can stop inflation from eating into your money.

If you live in India, you cannot just sit and watch the world go by. You need to change your habits and shed the inertia. There is a fear of loss, a widespread feeling around the world. The key is to stay invested and ride through the market's up and down cycle. Instead of fearing stock market loss, you may want to constantly think about ways of avoiding them. Investing in an index fund could be your first step.

Staying invested is key

If you live in India, you cannot just sit and watch the world go by. You need to change your habits and shed the inertia. There is a fear of loss, a widespread feeling around the world. The key is to stay invested and ride through the market's up and down cycle.

MONEY-WISE

MULTI CAP FUNDS - A MULTI-CUISINE BUFFET

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR

Head of LKW-India. He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com

MULTI-CAP funds, as its title suggests, are equity mutual funds that do not focus on a particular capitalisation category of companies but invest across multiple sectors and capitalisations. This makes them more diverse providing balanced exposure when compared to other traditional equity mutual fund schemes like Large or Mid-Cap funds.

While the fund managers have the freedom to invest across different market capitalisations, in September 2020, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) revised its earlier norms and asked the fund houses to invest a minimum of 25% each in large-cap, mid-cap and small-cap stocks in their respective multi cap schemes. The remaining portion that the fund has can be invested across market-caps or in debt and money market instruments.

Before this announcement, the fund managers in this category were free to choose stocks across market-capitalisations with no upper or lower threshold. There was thus no minimum or maximum restriction on how much they were investing in large, mid, or small-cap companies. While multi-cap funds can potentially outperform large-cap and mid-cap funds when the markets are on the ascent, they remain subject to market volatility because, at any given point, they must have 50% exposure to mid-cap and small-cap stocks.

Multi-cap funds thus offer flexibility to the fund manager to switch between stocks and accord additional or lesser weightage to stocks of a particular market capitalisation depending on the fund manager's reading of the market trend, in order to achieve higher returns.

Like every equity category fund, multi-cap funds too have long-term investment horizon and tend to accentuate risky if invested for short time frames, given that market volatility has greater impact in the near term.

Taxation of multi-cap funds are no different from any other equity mutual fund. If one sells their investments within one year, the gains are classified as Short Term Capital Gain (STCG) and 15% tax is payable. Whereas, for any multi cap investment held for more than one year, the gains are classified as Long Term Capital Gain (LTCG). Such gains of up to ₹1 lakh in a financial year are tax free. Beyond ₹1 lakh, LTCG is taxed at the rate of 10%.

The primary feature and advantage of investing in multi cap funds is diversification. Multi cap funds and Flexi cap funds are two variants of an equity fund that invest across market capitalisations. Of the two, multi-cap is perceived (not necessarily rightly) to be relatively safer as the market cap segregation is already provided by SEBI, while, in a flexi-cap fund the fund manager has the freedom to invest in any proportion across different market capitalisations. More importantly, while investing in mutual funds, investors must not only focus on increasing returns but also on reducing risks.

In next fortnight's column, we shall proceed to take a closer look at some of the multi-cap schemes, their dynamics and performances.

G20 meet: FMs to discuss crypto, global economy

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

LEVERAGING Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for advancing financial inclusion and productivity gains, global economy and policy perspectives on Crypto Assets are some of the key agenda items for first G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meeting to be held in Bengaluru on February 24 and 25.

The G20 FMCBG meeting will be preceded by a meeting of G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies (FCBD) on 22 February, 2023, co-chaired by Ajay Seth, Secretary (Economic Affairs) and Michael D. Patra, Deputy Governor, RBI.

The meeting will see the participation of finance ministers and Central Bank Governors of the G20 members, invitee members and heads of international organisations. In total, there will be a delegation of 72 members attending the meeting.

The Indian Presidency has designed the meeting agenda in a manner that can foster a meaningful exchange of ideas among ministers and governors on pragmatic and meaningful approaches to address some of the key global economic issues, a release from the finance ministry said.

The meeting will be spread over three sessions on February 24-25, covering issues such as strengthening multilateral development banks to address shared global challenges of the 21st century, financing for resilient, among others.

The sessions will also cover issues related to global economy, global health and international taxation.

'All smartphone makers must follow law of the land'

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

MADHAV Sheth, CEO, Realme India and president at Realme International Business Group, gets candid with The New Indian Express while talking about the company's plans in the new year, its contribution to 5G growth in the country and on crackdown on Chinese mobile makers by Indian authorities.

What are Realme's plans for this year?

Sell more, get more consumers. Not only cater to smartphones but make smartphones as a hub, creating an entire smart life ecosystem. We are reaching more consumers already. Realme has a 160 million consumer base across the world, out of which 70 million is from India. It means that basically India is one of the most strategically important markets for us. Also, we will continue to bring 5G products, differentiated products at every single price position. For us to make and bring differentiated products is like we have already seen in Realme 10 pro series.

How is Realme, as a smartphone brand, contributing to India's 5G deployment?

We were the first brand to launch 5G phones in India back in 2020, when other brands were still thinking about it. They even warned us against bringing a 5G phone at this early stage. However, we were the first company to think that 5G is one of the most important things in India. The reason is the replacement cycle of any phone is now 18-24 months, globally. If it is 18-24 months of replacement cycle, why not move to 5G directly. Now 80% of the portfolio in 2023 is going to be 5G. Even in 2022, more than 70% of the portfolio was 5G and that's how we are contributing to the 5G growth.

What could be a good 5G phone in terms of price?

Ideally, an affordable 5G smartphone would be between ₹ 10,000 and ₹15,000. We already have 5G phones below ₹ 15,000, but we are trying to bring more choices for the consumers below this price point. What I see is that the industry is not going below ₹10,000 for 5G smartphones this year.

For the past two years, Chinese smartphone makers have been under the scanner of India's investigation agencies. Do you think such crackdowns could make the environment unfavourable for companies doing business in India?

It is all about compliances. It is not about an Indian company or a foreign company. Anybody working in the country has to follow the law of the land. If you're not following compliances, the government will definitely ask you to follow the compliances.

So, it's not about Xiaomi, Oppo or Samsung, it's about any company which is not following the regulations.

We have to make sure that the people are aware that this is not about India and China. This is what the authorities think right now.

The Indian government announced a reduction of import duty on certain smartphone components in Budget 2023. Do you think this will reduce the cost of smartphones in India?

We are still evaluating it, but in the short term I do not see any price changes. I think the duties have been reduced from 5% to 2.5% on open cells of TV panels. Such initiatives will encourage local manufacturing, which means the manufacturing in India will grow.

So, there is no immediate benefit for consumers?

It is not about immediate benefits, it is about the long term. It will benefit the entire ecosystem because it will bring more manufacturing, more component manufacturers and add more jobs to India. At the same time, it will give more spending power to India.

It is not about an Indian company or a foreign company. Anybody working in the country has to follow the law of the land. If you're not following compliances, the government will definitely ask you to do so.

Madhav Sheth, CEO, Realme India

Rashford maintains hot streak in EPL

Marcus Rashford showed Manchester United won't be distracted by the race to buy the Old Trafford club as his double inspired a 3-0 win against Leicester on Sunday. United owners the Glazer family are considering rival offers from Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad Al Thani, chairman of one of Qatar's biggest banks, and British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe. Late on Saturday, Liverpool beat Newcastle 2-0 to keep their top-four hopes alive,

As many as six Oz batters were dismissed while attempting to play a sweep shot on Sunday | PTI

VISITORS SWEPT ASIDE

Attempted sweep shots cost Oz on Day 3 as India take 2-0 lead

FIROZ MIRZA @ New Delhi

HOW and when Australia imploded?

Second question first. By then, they were 95/3. Not comfortably placed but still in the game. It was the fourth ball of the 26th over. Southpaw Ravindra Jadeja fired a quick flatter delivery (100kph). On 35, Labuschagne couldn't keep it out as the ball stayed low and rattled his stumps. The visitors lost three more wickets in the next ten balls with the score remaining intact. Once that happened, it was only a matter of time before they folded. And that is exactly what happened as they could add only 18 runs to get dismissed for 113. For those interested in numbers, Australia lost eight wickets for 28 runs in just 74 balls.

Now the first question. How? Six batters from Australia's playing XI got out playing either the sweep or the reverse sweep. Agreed, their opener Usman Khawaja top-scored for the team in the first innings playing those kind of shots but not it did lead to his downfall in both innings.

On a deteriorating Day three pitch with low bounce on Sunday, sweeps and reverse sweeps became Australia's most-preferred options which ultimately proved suicidal. While Steve Smith and Matthew Renshaw were trapped before the wicket, Alex Carey, Pat Cummins and Matthew Kuhnemann were cleaned up while attempting expansive sweeps. "Both games were disappointing, this one in particular. We were ahead in the game and that doesn't happen often in India. This loss hurts," said Cummins. Speaking of the sweep shot, he said "We need a review on what could have been done differently. (On batters getting out to sweeps) everyone controls their own game, some balls just have your name. But we need a review on the shot choice, did we do things right or not."

Counterpart Rohit Sharma, however, believed sweep was not the best shot to play on the Delhi strip. "We were playing in Nagpur on red soil and here we were batting on black soil. Here the sweep was not a very good option, stepping out to the spinners was probably the safer option. That is my view," he said after India won the match by six wickets.

The India opener, who scored 31 off 20 before getting run-out after a mix-up with Cheteshwar Pujara, also emphasised on the importance of technique and preparations. "You need technique to defend as well as attack, including the shots down the ground, sweep and reverse sweep. On pitches like these, it is very important to have confidence in your own technique."

Earlier, the day started with Cummins and Co. holding an edge over their rivals with a 62-run lead. Had they extended the lead to around 200, they had a realistic chance of levelling the series 1-1. Notably, India have chased more than 200 in a fourth innings only twice at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi.

Unfortunately for them, the batters swept their way to self-destruction as the team was bundled out in 91 minutes, 29 minutes before lunch in the first session to let the opportunity slip out of their hands. Once again, it was the duo of R Ashwin and Jadeja, who turned out to be their tormentors. The spin-bowling all-rounders claimed 16 (match tally) of the 20 wickets to fall. It was Ashwin who started the proceedings but Jadeja ended the madcap procession by castling the last man Kuhnemann to finish with two career-best hauls of 7/42 (for the innings) and 10/110 (for the Test).

SCOREBOARD: Australia 1st innings 263. **India 1st innings** 262. **Australia 2nd innings** (o/n 61-1) Khawaja c Iyer b Jadeja 6, Head c Bharat b Ashwin 43, Labuschagne b Jadeja 35, Smith lbw Ashwin 9, Renshaw lbw Ashwin 2, Handscomb c Kohli b Jadeja 0, Carey b Jadeja 7, Cummins b Jadeja 0, Lyon b Jadeja 8, Murphy n.o 3, Kuhnemann b Jadeja 0. **Extras** 0. **Total** (all out, 31.1 oves) 113. **FoW:** 1-23, 2-65, 3-85, 4-95, 5-95, 6-95, 7-95, 8-110, 9-113, 10-113. **Bowling:** Ashwin 16-3-59-3, Shami 2-0-10-0, Jadeja 12.1-1-42-7, Axar 1-0-2-0. **India 2nd innings** (target 115): Sharma run out 31, Rahul c Carey b Lyon 1, Pujara not out 31, Kohli st Carey b Murphy 20, Iyer c Murphy b Lyon 12, Bharat not out 23. **Extras** 0. Total (four wickets, 26.4 ovs) 118. **FoW:** 1-6, 2-39, 3-69, 4-88. **Bowling:** Kuhnemann 7-0-38-0, Lyon 12-3-49-2, Murphy 6.4-2-22-1, Head 1-0-9-0.

WTC Final race

In regards to qualification for the ICC World Test Championship final, Australia remain atop the standings despite the defeat reducing their percentage tally to 66.67%. India (64.06%) widened the gap between themselves and third spot.

Rahul gets Rohit's backing, named in Test & ODI squad

FIROZ MIRZA @ New Delhi

KL RAHUL could manage only 17 and 1 in the Delhi Test even as India registered an emphatic win over visiting Australia to take a 2-0 lead in the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy on Sunday. His dry run for more than a year, especially in the longest format of the game, has been attracting a lot of criticism from experts and former players alike. For the record, Rahul last scored a half-century when he made 50 against South Africa in Johannesburg while captaining the side in the second Test. His last of the seven Test centuries also came during the tour in December 2021 in Centurion.

However, despite the growing calls against the Karnataka player, the Board of Control for Cricket in India on Sunday decided to retain him for the remaining two Tests and three-ODI series against Australia. The two Tests will begin in Indore and Ahmedabad on March 1 and 9, respectively, while the first 50-over match will be held in Mumbai on March 17.

The announcement of the squads came a couple of hours after skipper Rohit Sharma hinted that Rahul would be given an extended run in the team. "Of late, there has been a lot of talk about his batting. For us, as team management, we always look at the potential of any individual, not just KL. I was asked in the past about a lot of players. If a guy has potential, he will get an extended run. Not just KL. If you look at the couple of hundreds he got, especially at Lord's, batting on that damp pitch. Centurion was another win. Both came in India winning both games. That's the potential he has," said Rohit after the match. Former India pacer Venkatesh Prasad has been questioning Rahul's place in the team for some time now. He also cited Rahul's below-par batting average of 33.44 despite playing 47 Test matches to support his claim.

But Rohit, who is going to miss the first ODI in his hometown due to family commitment, said that the 30-year-old batter will be given a longer rope. "Obviously, of late, there have been a lot of talks. But, from our side, it was clear that we want him to go out and play his game and do what he can do the best that we have seen him do over the years."

ODI squad: Rohit Sharma (c), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, K.L. Rahul, Ishan Kishan (wk), Hardik Pandya (vc), Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Washington Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Umran Malik, Shardul Thakur, Axar Patel, Jaydev Unadkat.

Saurashtra claim second Ranji title

KOLKATA: Left-arm pacer Jaydev Unadkat returned a match haul of nine wickets, including 6/85 in the second innings, as Saurashtra thrashed Bengal by nine wickets in the summit clash to clinch their second Ranji Trophy title here. Having given away a big first innings lead of 230 runs, Bengal, who were overnight 169/4, folded for 241, handing the visitors a mere 12 runs target to win the final. Saurashtra's earlier triumph was in 2019-20 season.

Brief Scores: Bengal 174 & 241 in 70.4 ovs (M Tiwary 68, A Majumdar 61; J Unadkat 6/85, Chetan Sakariya 3/76) lost to Saurashtra 404 & 14/1 in 2.4 ovs.

Saurashtra players, led by Jaydev Unadkat (foreground), rejoice after their victory | PTI

The world of Deepti Sharma

GOMESH S
Express @ Women's T20 World Cup
GQEBERHA

JHULAN Goswami vividly remembers the first time she came across Deepti Sharma. It was in 2014 during an inter-state game between Bengal and Uttar Pradesh, the team Deepti played for in the past. "She was a young and athletic teenager. An all-rounder who looked apart from the others she was playing with," recalls the former Indian captain.

When Goswami captained Deepti in the Challengers during that season, little did she know they were going to share the dressing room for a long time. Quiet, down-to-earth, inquisitive, and respectful are the adjectives that Goswami keeps using to describe the then-teenager.

From thereon, Deepti has gone on to play three T20 World Cups, including the 2023 edition, and was at the centre of two ODI WC heartbreaks. She is among the first names on the roster and is a vital cog of this Indian team. Nine years since she first met Deepti, Goswami feels that the never-say-no attitude Deepti has is one of the key reasons for her growth.

During her time with the Indian team, Deepti has batted in every position from three to nine (1-9 in ODIs). Depending on how the team combination is and who is or isn't in form, Deepti is the one who has been shuffled around. She has obliged every time. The same goes for her bowling as well.

While she has been India's key wicket-taker for several years now, Deepti, in the last 12 months, has been the go-to player across situations. Open the bowling? Yes. Need someone in death? Yes. Middle-over wickets? Yes.

No other bowler in this team has played more matches than her, and, at some level, it is fair to say that she is the spearhead of the attack. That she selects the new ball when it's their turn to bowl sums it up.

"Whenever different captains, different coaches say something, she respects that and tries to give her best all the time. Whatever ability she has, she has put in her best. And when you consistently deliver, the captain and management start to believe in you. That is the thing, they believe that she can deliver. You cannot do it every day, but they rely on Deepti to change the dimension of the game," says Goswami, who believes that taking part in the overseas leagues has added to Deepti's dimension as a cricketer.

"With all the time at The Hundred and the Women's Big Bash League, she has gathered

Deepti Sharma has evolved to become a prominent player for India | AFP

a lot of input from other people and that changed her growth also. To get out of the comfort zone, to play in those leagues will definitely bring a lot of value to you as a player."

After the first match against Pakistan in the T20 World Cup, she could be seen discussing with bowling coach Troy Cooley on occasions where she didn't change her lengths or get the line right and more in the nets. She is someone who always watches her footage after every match. She knows her craft, strengths, and weaknesses, and has impeccable game awareness. But it is not often you get to see her astuteness or the thoughts that go into her bowling in a public forum.

Ask her about her craft or how she prepares to bat or bowl and you will not get much out of her. Very rarely does she reveal her cards. Her answer will often be along the lines that she is happy to do what the team asks of her and is prepared for anything that is needed to do at any certain point. "She is that kind of a player who believes the team has the last word. Whatever the team says, we will follow. That is her commitment, that is why she has come this far. She is playing for Bengal for six seasons now. Whenever she is free, she always comes and plays. Her commitment can never be questioned. She never gives up, never says no," says Goswami.

Saturday was one of those rare days Deepti could not deliver on the field. She was up against Natalie Sciver-Brunt, who kept her bat in the crease at the non-striker's end while keeping a close eye on Deepti's bowling hand and how she released every delivery. The England all-rounder took on the off-spinner as Deepti finished with 1/37.

With India taking on Ireland on Monday and a potential semi-final contest ahead against Australia looming, India will be expecting Deepti to come back stronger and make an impact. And it should not be a surprise if she does because that is what she is known for. Because there's more to Deepti, the cricketer, than what she shows the world.

India look to bounce back

After the loss against England, the Women in Blue will look to finish the group stage on a high against Ireland on Monday. A look..

HARMAN'S FORM

The skipper was outstanding in 2022 and has been in good touch in the lead-up to the tournament, but the way she played against England is concerning. India would want Harmanpreet back in her groove, especially when they face Australia in the semifinals.

LEFT-ARM SPINNERS

Through this WC, India have played two left-arm spinners without bearing much fruit. The way Nat Sciver-Brunt and Amy Jones took them down is something India would want to take note of. If they wanted to change up, they could look at leg-spinner Devika Vaidhya come Monday.

IRELAND A TOUGH NUT

They may not have shown it on the field so far, but this Ireland, on their day, can cause an upset. In their last game, Orla Prendergast will be coming in all guns blazing, and India would not want to take them lightly.

TODAY'S MATCHES: India vs Ireland, 6.30 PM
Live on Star Sports Network

Harris, Australia's Graceful disruptor

GOMESH S @ Gqeberha

NOT like Oprah Winfrey, laughs Grace Harris. For the Australian, The Oprah Winfrey Show is a bit too serious. If she had to be a TV host, Harris believes she would be like Ellen DeGeneres. "She can have a bit of fun and I'd love to do all those games that she played. So, if I ran a show similar to hers, that would be pretty fun," Harris tells this daily.

Now, one might think why are we talking about a potential TV show with an Australian all-rounder? Because with Harris, cricket isn't everything. For her, it is all about having fun in everything she does. She is the loudest member in the Australian dressing room, someone who cannot stop chatting, who commentates on her batting every ball as she bats, whether it's in a game or in the nets. Her Twitter bio reads, 'If you can't be good, be good at it!'. If you ask her about it, she'll say that she heard it from a cheeky relative. "Essentially, it means if you're not gonna go well then at least get away with it. So, I thought it was pretty apt for myself, especially with

Grace Harris | AFP

some of the exploits that I've gotten into over the years," she laughs. Her approach stems from the fact that there is so much that is happening in everyone's real life that is challenging and draining, sports should not be one of them. For her, it should be the fun part of one's life. That doesn't mean that she is not serious about her cricket. On the field, she is one of the biggest hitters. She might have already plucked the catch of the T20 World Cup against Sri Lanka. She knows there are times when you have to get your head down and line up with everybody and get on with it, but she just wants to have as much fun as possible out of it.

That she has a role of a disruptor for her team helps. When Harris walks in, there is only one objective; take on the bowlers and score quick runs. "Putting a price on the wicket" doesn't apply to her. She might not get to bat every match, but when she does, Harris changes the game on its head as she did against India in the CWG group stage game. What makes her stand out is that she has become good at it; her strike rate of 191.26 since 2022 is the highest for any batter with more than 20 runs in the period. Make no mistake, it took her some time to get here. She made her debut in 2015 as a hitter, but it is her consistency that makes her the "X-factor" as Australian head coach Shelly Nitschke said.

"I worked with some really good coaching staff and I put forward a couple of questions and how to better my game and become the best player that I possibly could be. So yeah, I did a lot of work with that and I was very fortunate that the coaches really backed me in and really worked with me as well to kind of develop a bit more as a batter and a bit more consistent, and then maybe I can still do a kind of 'hitman role' and be more consistent at it," says Harris.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

MCGRATH TAKES OZ HOME : Gqeberha: Tahlia McGrath feels that she thrives under pressure and is 'no good' when all is going well. Even if that was true, Australia wouldn't mind it as long as she continues to excel as she did against South Africa on Saturday. Coming in at 40/3, she smashed a 33-ball 57, helping Australia beat the hosts in front of a packed crowd.

Brief scores: South Africa 124/6 in 20 ovs (Brits 45; Wareham 2/6) lost to Australia 125/4 in 16.3 ovs (McGrath 57; Kapp 2/21).

Doubles champ shows singles aptitude

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Chennai

A person gallivanting in the east stand inside centre court of the SDAT tennis complex finally got Max Purcell's goat. The Australian directly addressed the person and asked him to sit down. US' Nicolas Moreno de Alboran was firmly in control of the Chennai Open final and Purcell's irritation was understandable. The chair umpire frequently had to use the mic to request the fairly sizable crowd (for a Challenger) to sit down and maintain silence during points.

With the clock showing 4.45 PM, the gently lengthening shadows seemed to be a metaphor for Purcell's situation in the match. He had lost the first set and was down a break in the second. Curiously, that's when the match turned. De Alboran engineered two tournament points on the Purcell serve (15-40, 4-5 in the second set) but the 24-year-old, one half of the reigning Wimbledon doubles champion (with Matthew Ebden), saved both of them. That was when the match caught fire. Purcell's stated aim is to become a top 100 player and he showed the right ingredients to prevail 5-7, 7-6 (2), 6-4. It began under abundant sunshine. It finished in twilight with the floodlights in full effect.

Max Purcell | ASHWIN PRASATH

As soon as Purcell won the match, his victory cry cut through the gentle sea breeze that was blowing across the stadium. And his emotions were understandable. When he wakes up in Bengaluru for the Challenger beginning on Monday, he will have attained a new career high of 155. What was the most pleasing aspect of his game was he refused to give up. He chased down lost causes, kept putting balls back in play and took his chances, especially on his forehand wing, when opportunities presented itself.

What's even more remarkable is that this opportunity may not have come in the first place. Purcell, yet to win a main draw match at the ATP Tour-level, landed in Chennai a good five days earlier before the tournament. Unfortunately, he caught a bug and practiced for a sum total of 40 minutes till Monday. "Yeah, don't know what it was," he told after the final. "I reached here Wednesday Thursday night I felt nauseous and threw up every 20 minutes. Friday I didn't leave bed. Practiced 20 minutes the next few days so it wasn't really great preparations." It was in stark contrast to how he felt after a full training session the day he got here. "I told myself I was going to win this tournament."

Even though the final clocked at 3hrs and 10 minutes, he didn't show any of those signs. He called it a 'surprise'. "It's the best I have felt all week, physically. For a 3 hr match, I felt I could keep going, no issues."

His next target? The next event in Bengaluru.

Singles: Max Purcell bt Nicolas Moreno de Alboran 5-7, 7-6 (2), 6-4.

EXPRESS READ

B'luru Open: Prajnesh and Sasikumar win

BENGALURU: Indian tennis players Sasikumar Mukund and Prajnesh Gunneswaran made their way into the final qualifying round at the Bengaluru Open 2023 after posting contrasting wins on Sunday. Sasikumar beat Andrew Paulson 6-1, 6-4. Gunneswaran beat Zimbabwean Benjamin Lock 7-5, 6-4.

Shooter Varun bags bronze at Cairo WC

NEW DELHI: India won their first medal of the ongoing ISSF World Cup (rifle/pistol) in Cairo, Egypt, when 19-year-old Varun Tomar bagged bronze in the men's 10m air pistol competition. Varun got the better of teammate Sarabjot Singh in a shoot-off after both had tied for third spot with a score of 250.6. Slovakian shooter Juraj Tuzinsky won gold.

England complete win over NZ in first Test

MOUNT MAUNGANUI: England completed a resounding 267-run win over the Black Caps in the first Test, powering to their first win in New Zealand for 15 years. The tourists snared the required five wickets in the opening session of Day, dismissing the Black Caps for 126.

With a swirl of glitter, sequins and samba, Rio de Janeiro will kick off its famed carnival parades Sunday, the climax of the festival's first full-on edition since Covid-19 and Brazil's bitterly divisive elections

US wildlife authorities will shoot and kill around 150 "feral" cows from a helicopter in a New Mexico wilderness area next week as a "public safety" measure, officials said.

EXFILE WILDLIFE

ENDANGERED AFRICAN PENGUIN CHICKS HATCH AT ARIZONA AQUARIUM

An Arizona aquarium is celebrating the hatching of three endangered African penguin chicks, saying the tiny additions are genetically valuable as zoos and aquariums around the world work to ensure the species' survival through breeding programmes and conservation efforts

down 23% in the past 2 years alone

POSTING ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Officials at OdySea Aquarium made the announcement on Friday, posting video of the fuzzy birds on social media

HATCHING A FEW WEEKS AGO

They hatched a few weeks ago and will remain behind the scenes with their parents until they're ready for a public appearance

POPULATION DECLINE OF AFRICAN PENGUINS

African penguins have suffered a massive population decline over the decades and are listed as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature

CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION

So any successful hatching is cause for celebration, said Jess Peranteau, director of animal care and education at the aquarium

COMMITTED TO THE SURVIVAL OF THE SPECIES

"As the population of the African penguin continues to rapidly decline—*down 23% in the past two years alone*—OdySea Aquarium remains committed to the survival of the species in partnership with other Association of Zoos and Aquariums' accredited facilities," Peranteau said in a statement

VIABLE GENETIC POOL

The breeding programme established by the association aims to build up a viable genetic pool for the species

In this photo provided by OdySea Aquarium, veterinarians examine penguin "42," one of the African penguin chicks recently born to parents Mojo and Lemieux at the OdySea Aquarium in Scottsdale, Ariz., Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023 | AP

ABOUT THE AFRICAN PENGUIN CHICKS

AFRICAN PENGUIN

Officials say two of the three new chicks in Scottsdale are clutch-mates, born to parents Mojo and Lemieux—a power couple of sorts that was selected for pairing as part of the breeding programme

The third chick was born to first-time parents Bubbles and Weasley

MONITORING THE NEWBORNS

Aquarium workers will regularly conduct "chick checks," brief exams to monitor their growth and development and ensure they are hitting all necessary milestones

US Supreme Court takes on immunity for tech giants

Will decide if companies are liable for content posted by their users

LAW

WASHINGTON: The US Supreme Court this week examines a quarter-century old law that has protected tech companies from lawsuits and prosecution for content posted by their users, with a chance that the rules governing the internet will no longer stand.

Enacted when Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg was just 11 years old and Google's creation still two years off, Section 230 is seen as a fundamental law of the internet and considered inviolable by its staunch defenders.

Section 230 was part of the Communication Decency Act, an anti-pornography law signed in 1996, that helped set the rules of the road for the internet, which was still in its infancy as an online playground for all.

The idea was to protect the then embryonic internet sector from cascading lawsuits and to allow it to flourish, while encouraging tech companies to moderate their content.

At the time most of the attention went on limits put on sexual content, a part of the bill that was backed by then president Bill Clinton and that was later struck down by the Supreme Court in a landmark case. But inserted into the legislation was Section 230 which stated that "no provider or user of an interactive computer service shall be treated as the publisher" or hold responsibility for content that came from an outside party.

This immunity is largely seen as the regulatory tweak that would eventually free the way for Google search and sow the seeds for the social media revolution.

The US Supreme Court | AP

Under the protection of Section 230, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or YouTube became the conduits of a world conversation without ever being at risk of lawsuit by someone taking offense at a tweet or a controversial video.

The law also protects Wikipedia or classified ads sites such as Craigslist whose success would also upend traditional media. But opponents to the law would like to see platforms get sued for drug deals, cyber stalking and violent threats that take place on their sites.

JAPAN BIDS ADIEU TO 4 PANDAS

WILDLIFE

Thousands of Japanese fans on Sunday bade farewell to four beloved pandas which will be returned to China this week, with some visitors shedding tears. Visitors flocked to Tokyo's Ueno Zoo to catch a last glimpse of Xiang Xiang, who has been a massive draw for the park since her birth in 2017, and to a park in western Wakayama region for the other three pandas.

Plane crashes on Philippine volcano

DISASTER

MANILA: Rescuers struggled on Sunday to reach the slopes of an active volcano in the central Philippines where a small plane is believed to have crashed, officials said, with the fate of those on board still unconfirmed. The Cessna 340 aircraft with four on board went missing shortly after departing for Manila from Bicol International Airport in Albay province, several kilometres from Mayon volcano, on Saturday.

Manila-based Energy Development Corporation said the missing plane belonged to the company and it was seeking to confirm if the wreckage spotted on Sunday in "very steep terrain and high altitude of about 6,000 feet" was theirs. Two of the four passengers were Australian, Bicol police said, adding rescue teams with sniffer dogs had been deployed to find the crash site.

PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR PURCHASE OF PROPERTY

NOTICE is hereby given that **M/S SACN Estates LLP** is willing to sell the schedule property in favour of my Client **Mr. Vasudeva Reddy Arava** free from all encumbrances. Any person having any right, title, interest, claim or demand of any nature whatsoever in respect of the said property, is hereby required to make the same known in writing along with the documentary proof thereof, to the below mentioned his Counsel Mr.RADESH.K, Office at Third Floor, Above Favara Car World, SMN Complex, Whitefield Main Road, Thubarahalli Bangalore. within 07 days from the date of publication hereof, failing which the negotiations shall be completed, without any reference to such claims and the claims if any, shall be deemed to have been given up or waived.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property bearing **Plot No: 29** measuring **1200 Square Feet** in the Layout formed in (Old Sy No: 60/4) New Sy No: 60/11 measuring 17 Guntas and 1 Acre 32 Guntas, totally measuring 2 Acres 9 Guntas, Situated at Kadiganahalli Village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore Urban District.

Contact : **Mr. RADESH BE,** LL.B, LL.M
Director : MKM Legal Solutions Pvt Ltd.
e-mail id: radesh@mkmlegalsolutions
Contact No: +91 9916087073

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Under Taking)
Executive Engineer, KBJNL.NLBC Division, Rodalabanda-584127
Tq.Lingasugur Dist.Raichur email:kbjnlnlbc4@gmail.com

No: KBJNL/NLBC/PB/2022-23/2359 Date :-14.02.2023
No: KBJNL/NLBC/PB/2022-23/2360 Date :-14.02.2023
No: KBJNL/NLBC/PB/2022-23/2364 Date :-14.02.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through e-tendering only

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer KBJNL, NLBC Division, Rodalabanda invites percentage tenders in two cover system from eligible Class.I Civil KPWD & above registered Contractors (Total 5+4+2=11 Nos.of works) as detailed in the short term Tender Notification published in e-procurement portal viz http//eproc.karnataka.gov.in. The Intending tenderers may download the tender document through e-procurement portal viz., http//eproc.karnataka.gov.in.from 16.02.2023 to 24.02.2023 @ 5.00 PM. The technical bid will be opened on 27.02.2023 @ 11.00 AM and Further details can be obtained from this office in any working days during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIP/Raichur/634/ K.S.M.C&A/2022-23 **KBJNL NLBC Division, Rodalbanda**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: EEE/400kV/SSCD/AE(O)/22-23/1624 DATE : 13.02.2023

NOTIFICATION

The Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited have formulated a scheme under section 67 of the Electricity Supply Act 2003 and the same is here with published in pursuance of section 67(ii) of the said Act for information of the general public. Particulars of the scheme are as follows.

1) Name of the scheme: Construction of 220kV un-manned GIS switching station (remote operation from 220kV Khodays Glass Factory sub-station) with Double bus bar arrangement in the BBMP park near 220/66/11kV Khodays Glass Factory sub-station along with 220kV lines

220kV Line: a) Conversion of 220kV SC to DC line from the existing CTT near 400kV Mylasandra sub-station to Somanahalli LILO point for a route length of 4.29 kms and 220-220kV MC line from Somanahalli LILO point to proposed CTT-1 near the proposed 220kV GIS switching station for a route length of 2.647 kms with AAAC Moose conductor (total 6.937kms) and running 220kV 1200Sqmm UG cable UG cable from the proposed CTT-1 to the switching station for a route length of 25Mtrs. **The said line and cable passes through Mylasandra, Gotigere, Jambusavaridine, J.P.Nagar 9th Block, Avalahalli. b)** Conversion of 220kV SC to DC line from 220/66kV Peenya Sub-station to CTT-3 near proposed 220kV GIS switching station using AAAC Moose conductor for a route length of 20.306kms and running 220kV 1200Sqmm UG cable from the proposed CTT-3 to the proposed GIS switching station for a route length of 25Mtrs The said line and cable passes through **Gubbala Industrial Area, Uttarahalli, Poornapajna, Srinivasanagar, Hosakerehalli, R.R.Nagar, Nayandanahalli, Vinayaka Layout, Chandra Layout, Maruthi nagar, Byraveshwara Nagar, Anubhavanagar, Priyadarshini Layout, Kaveri Layout, Amarjyothi Layout, HVR Layout, Kamakshipalya, Byraveshwara Nagar, Sharada colony, Basaveshwara Nagar, Kurubarahalli, Mahalakshmipura, Saraswathipura, Nandini Layout, Kantheerava Layout, Peenya. c)** Running 220kV DC 1200Sqmm UG cable from the proposed 220kV switching station near the existing 220/66kV Khodays Glass factory substation to the LILO point of existing 220/66kV Subramanya Pura sub-station for a route length of 2.365 kms in order to connect the existing DC OH line of 220/66kV Subramanyapura sub-station. **The said UG Cable passes through Avalahalli Park, Kanakapura road, Gubbala Area, Maruti nagar, Subramanyapura.**

2. Estimate Cost of the Project:Station: 19578.10 Lakhs.

2) Name of the scheme: Modernization of existing 220/66kV Vrushabhavathi Valley sub-station on 220kV side with 220kV GIS double bus bar arrangement and allied equipment along with construction of associated 220kV lines and strengthening of existing 220kV Somanahalli-Tataguni–Vrushabhavathi Valley SC overhead line.

220kV UG Cable: a) Running 220kV, 1200Sqmm Single core, Single circuit XLPE Copper conductor UG cable from existing 400/220kV Bidadi Sub-Station (M/s PGCIL) to 220/66kV Bidadi sub-station for a route length of 5.937 kms and to connect one circuit of 220kV Bidadi-Somanahalli DC line for a route length of 32Mtrs. **The said line and cable passes through Ragngegowdanadoddi, Madenahalli & Jogaradoddi.** b) Construction of 220kV MC transmission line with AAAC Moose conductor, one line from LILO point of 220kV T.K Halli-Peenya line near Somanahalli sub-station up to proposed 220kV GIS system in 220/66kV Vrushabhavathi Valley sub-station (15.898kms) & LILO of one circuit of 220kV Somanahalli–Bidadi DC line (15.818kms) up to the proposed 220kV MC CTT near Vrushabhavathi Valley sub-station and connecting the above said overhead lines to proposed 220kV GIS system at Vrushabhavathi Valley sub-station through 1200Sqmm UG cable and plug in to GIS line modules. Strengthening of existing 220kV Somanahalli-Tataguni-Vrushabhavathi Valley line from LILO point of T.K.Halli-Somanahalli line to proposed 2220kV MC CTT near Vrushabhavathi Valley sub-station (15.898 kms) (excluding the LILO portion of Tataguni line) The said line and cable passes through **Pantharapalya, Halagevaderahalli, Channasandra, Turahalli, Uttarahalli, Manavartekaval, Badamanavarthekaval, Agara, Kaggalipura.**

2. Estimate Cost of the Project:Station:26205.68 Lakhs.

3. Salient Features: This is an ideal Load Centre where the Industrial, Commercial, Agricultural and domestic loads are existing and the problems of low voltage, frequent interruptions in power supply can be overcome and further load growth can be catered in and around the area. Reduces system loss along with Energy Savings due to loss reduction thus saves the large amount of public money.

The corporation shall have and exercise all powers, which the telegraph authorities process under Para (iii) of Indian Telegraph Act 1885(13 0f 1885) for carrying of the above scheme. Objection or discrepancies to the scheme, if any should be sent to the **Executive Engineer (Ele.) 400kV S.S.C.D, K.P.T.C.L, Hebbal, Bengaluru-24 within 15 Days** from the date of publication of this notification for consideration by the corporation.

Sd/-, Executive Engineer (Elec),
400kV SSC Division, UAS Campus, Hebbal, KPTCL, Bengaluru-560 024.

SHRIRAM HOUSING FINANCE

SHRIRAM HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Head Office: Level -3, Wockhardt Towers, East Wing C-2 Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai 400 051; **Tel:** 022 4241 0400, 022 4060 3100 ; **Website:** http://www.shriramhousing.in
Registered Off: Office No.123, Angappa Naicken Street, Chennai-600 001;
Branch Office: No. 96, R B Manor, 20th Main Road, Rajajinagar 2nd Block, Bangalore - 560010

APPENDIX-IV-A [SEE PROVISION TO RULE 8(6)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/ charged to The Shriram Housing Finance Limited, The Physical possession of which have been taken by the Authorized Officer of Shriram Housing Finance Limited, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis in e-auction on 13.03.2023 between 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** for recovery of the balance due to "The Shriram Housing Finance Limited" from the Borrowers And Guarantors, as mentioned in the table. Details of Borrowers and Guarantors, amount due, Short Description of the immovable property and encumbrances known thereon, possession type, reserve price and earnest money deposit & increment are also given as:

Name of Borrowers/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/Mortgagers	Date & Amount of 13(2) Demand Notice	Description of Property	Reserve Price (Rs.) & Bid Increment	Earnest Money Deposit Details (EMD) Details.	Date & Time of Auction	Contact Person and Inspection date
1. MR. S AFROZ 2. MRS. ANYESHA TANZEEM R/At: No. 19, 1st D Main Road, 15th Cross, B K Nagar, Lachappa Colony, Yeshwanthapur, Near Keshava Theatre, Bangalore – 560 022. Also At: Shan Enterprises, No. 241/A, 5th Main, 3rd Cross, Gokula 1st Stage, 2nd Phase, Mathikere, Near Manjunatha Fast Food, Bangalore – 560 054. **Date of Possession & Possession Type** 26th April, 2022 Physical Possession **Encumbrances known** Not Known	Rs. 24,64,349/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakhs Sixty Four Thousand Three Hundred and Forty Nine Only) as on 21.02.2022 in respect of Loan Account No. SHLHBGLR000 1181 further interest at the contractual rate, within 60 days from the receipt of said notice. Notice dated: 23.02.2022	All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site No. 2, Khatha No. 40, Situated at Mydarahalli Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, presently comes under the limits of BBMP, measuring East to West 40 Ft and North to south 30 Ft in total measuring 1200 Sq. Ft and bounded on the: East by: Private Property, West by: Road, North by: Site No. 01, South by: Site No. 03.	Rs. 26,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Six Lakhs Only) Bid Increment: Rs. 10,000/- and in such multiples. **Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (Rs.)** Rs. 2,60,000/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Sixty Thousand Only) **Last date for submission of EMD : 8th March 2023 Time 10.00 a.m. to 05.00 p.m.**	EMD amount to be deposited by way of RTGS/ NEFT to the account details mentioned herein below: **BANK NAME-** AXIS BANK LIMITED **BRANCH-** BANDRA KURLA COMPLEX, MUMBAI **BANK ACCOUNT NO-** Current Account No. 911020045677633 **IFSC CODE-** UTIB0000230	13th Mar. 2023 Time: 11.00 a.m. to 01.00 p.m.	Customer care: 022 -40081572. Prashanth +919035211772 Manjunath K +919845407976 Property Inspection Date: 25th February 2023 Time 11.00 a.m. to 04.00 p.m.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link http://shriramhousing.in/e-auction-Residential provided in the Shriram Housing Finance Limited website.

Place : Bangalore
Date : 20-02-2023

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Shriram Housing Finance Limited

CHANGE OF NAME

I, (OLD NAME) NEHA KUMBHAR, D/o. Dattatray Kallappa Kumbhar, residing at Samanvay Status 2, 502 G Tower, Atladara, Vadodara-390012, Gujrat, India. (Now Camp at Bangalore) have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) NEHA KUMBHAR** to **(NEW NAME) NEHA DATTATRAY KUMBHAR** vide affidavit Dated 15/02/2023 sworn before Notary B.V.Nagabhushana, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, (OLD NAME) SUHEL AHAMED, S/o. Jameel Ahamed, residing at Ward No. 18, Pranava Badavane Naganayakanahatti Road, Hiriyur, Chitradurga-577598, (Now Camp at Bangalore) have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) SUHEL AHAMED** to **(NEW NAME) SUHAIL AHAMED** vide affidavit Dated 07/02/2023 sworn before Notary B.V.Nagabhushana, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, (OLD NAME) INDHUMATHI, W/o. Deepak Narayanan, residing at No. 33, 2nd Cross, Kodichikkenahalli Main Road, Kaveri Nagar, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) INDHUMATHI** to **(NEW NAME) INDHUMATHI SRINIVASAN** vide affidavit Dated 18/02/2023 sworn before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bangalore.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS City

Bengaluru Express

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Mail us: bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
20•02•2023
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Swan Lake premieres

In 1877, the Bolshoi Ballet premiered *Swan Lake*, which became a multigenerational symbol of conformity and rebellion in Russia

A SYMBOL

The sweeping music, tragic narrative, and iconic costumes have all contributed to the lasting popularity of *Swan Lake*, and soon became the symbol of Russian art

THE PLOT

It was composed by Pyotr Illich Tchaikovsky. It was based on fairy tales about princess Odette, turned into a swan by evil curse and rescued by prince Siegfried's love

UNPREDICTABLE FAILURE

It opened to poor reviews. The music and choreography were criticised harshly, and "Germanness" of the story and characters were deemed offensive

Xpress Highway
PG 3

Son of late Bollywood actor Irrfan Khan, Babil Khan, who was in the city, speaks about his recent Karnataka trip, how life changed after his father's demise and why he picked *Qala*

'I WAS NEVER POSITIONED AS A STAR KID'

MONIKA MONALISA

BABIL KHAN, who recently visited Mysuru for an acting workshop with theatre director and playwright Prasanna, was looking forward to it for a while. "I took a flight to Bengaluru and from there took a local train to Mysuru. I learnt my first few Kannada words too," says Babil, adding, "*Ondu bottle neer kodi*."

His family – his late father and actor Irrfan Khan and mother Sutapa Sikdar – often visited Prasanna's humble abode. However, for Babil, it was his first experience. "It was magical. Baba always wanted me to go to Mysuru but I was never able to. It just happened at this point in my life. Suddenly doors opened for me to visit places that Baba wished for all of us to," he says. Giving a sneak-peek into why the family is fond of Prasanna's method of acting, Babil says the acting guru is a 'man of action'. "Prasanna sir's name was part of a lot of family discussions in terms of the perspective of art and acting. But that is not the only reason he is one of the best acting teachers there. He has come up with something that is more enriching to you as a human being than just studying acting. That is what pulled me towards him. He does not talk, he just does," he adds.

Babil Khan with his father Irrfan Khan

I am a free child. I have been brought up to run free. But suddenly everything I did was put up for public scrutiny. I made a lot of mistakes. I feared that I would lose the child inside me and my freedom

Babil Khan, actor

Being associated with his father could have fetched him any role, however, the 20-something-year-old chose Anvita Dutt Guptan's *Qala*, where he does not play the titular role. "I don't think I picked *Qala*, it picked me. I went for the audition and got the part. There was not much planning involved. That's because I was never positioned as a star kid. There was no strategising involved behind my launch. They chose me because I matched the character and since I was very new, they were careful about how much characterisation they did with me. They chose me because I suited the role," he says unwilling to disclose any details of his upcoming projects.

His father's demise was not just emotionally heavy on him but it also suddenly put him under a spotlight, which was challenging, especially since he had always kept a low profile. "I am a free child. I have been brought up to run free. But suddenly, everything I did was put up for public scrutiny. I made a lot of mistakes. I feared that I would lose the child inside me and I would lose my freedom. When you're passionate about something, you have to make sacrifices and dare to follow the path you have chosen," he says.

Now, his equation with his mother has changed. "I was best friends with Baba but my mom was the one who shouted and screamed at us. Our relationship has been a journey, from a mother-child equation to one of a best friend. It's beautiful and now we talk about everything. I also practice acting with her too," he signs off with a smile.

CITY READ

Athulya Senior Care launches palliative care services in South India

With the ageing population and the increasing prevalence of serious health-related suffering in the country, on February 17. Athulya Senior Care and Pallium India teamed up to introduce palliative care services in the organised elder care sector in South India, marking a historic step towards addressing the country's rising demand for specialised palliative care. This partnership is poised to bring about a significant change in the lives of elderly individuals and their families. The launch of this service comes at a time when access to Palliative Care in India remains limited, with about less than 2 per cent of the country's people having access.

Barista Championship held

The National Barista Championship 2023 (NBC), hosted by the Coffee Board of India, Speciality Coffee Association of India, and United Coffee Association of India, was organised at Orion Mall at Brigade Gateway. With over 60 stalls offering more than 100 different types of coffee, the audience experienced the largest collection of coffee. The NBC is an annual event in the coffee industry where baristas from various regions of India come together to showcase their brewing skills and compete for the title of the NBC. "This city has a rich history and culture of coffee-making, and it's an honour to have brought the best baristas from top café brands, and specialty coffee brands from all over India to compete here," said Dr K G Jagadeesha, IAS, Secretary of the Coffee Board.

As migratory birds get ready to fly back to distant lands after their brief visit to Karnataka, here are some photographs by **Nagaraja Gadekal** of our aerial guests found in the Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary

WINGED VISITORS

THE Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary, one of the largest ones in Karnataka, is home to 71 migratory bird species during the months of November and March. Among these varied species of migratory birds, the most common ones are the Spot-billed pelicans, Eurasian spoonbills, and Black-headed ibises, among others. The bird sanctuary was declared a Ramsar site in 2022, the only one in Karnataka.

"As March is closing in, we are currently right at the end of the migratory season. Young ones have already hatched and are presently in the semi-adult stage where they are learning to fly from their mothers. In the following two months, they will migrate back," shares Nakul Manjunath, honourary wildlife warden of Mandya district, the region where the sanctuary is located.

Black-headed ibis

Spot-billed pelican

Painted stork

Eurasian spoonbill

Avin Thaliath(@chef_avin), pastry chef and the director of Lavonne Academy of Baking Science And Pastry Arts, dishes out a food-related quiz in this weekly series. Be a real 'whisk' taker and let us know if you have what it bakes. Who knows, your dreams may crumb true.

GRUB HUB

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'** The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE*. The first prize winner this week will win a voucher worth ₹1000 from Lavonne Cafe, Forum Shantiniketan Mall, Whitefield **

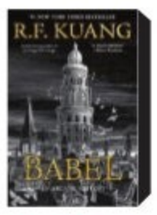
THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Perad 2) Darbesh 3) Poda Pitha

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

1) Shyam S
2) Richa Kulshrestha
3) Rangaraj M

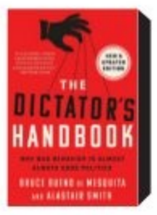
BOOK NOOK



Babel, Or the Necessity of Violence

By RF Kuang

Babel, or the Necessity of Violence: an Arcane History of Oxford Translators' Revolution is Kuang's latest offering. The novel grapples with student revolutions, colonial resistance, and the use of language and translation as the dominating tool of the British empire.



The Dictator's handbook

By Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and Alastair Smith

The authors explain how rulers take power and hold on to it using a kind of simple analysis that almost always explains political behaviour in most cases.

85 days in Slavyansk

By Alexander Zhuchkovsky

A first hand account of the 2014 Russo-Ukrainian conflict in Donbas and the only book in English written by an organiser of the rebellion.

India's Most Fearless 3: New Military stories of Unimaginable courage and sacrifice

By Shiv Aroor

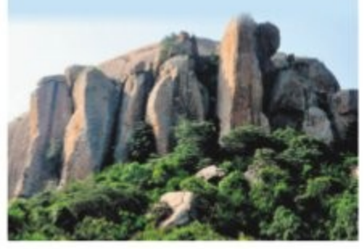
Shiv Aroor in this installment brings us more stories of great acts of bravery by men of our armed forces. Story of India's martyrs in Galwan is covered.

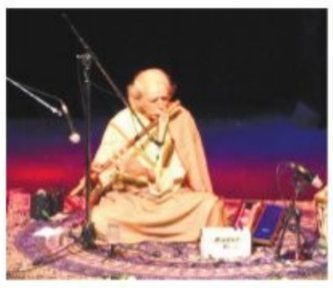
WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE

The Silk City

Explore the hill ranges of Ramanagara, the main backdrop for the Bollywood classic *Sholay*. The high hills surrounded by nature makes it a perfect destination for all adventure lovers.

WHERE: Meetup at Gopalan Arcade, Mysore Road **WHEN:** Feb 20, 11pm
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com





Music Therapy

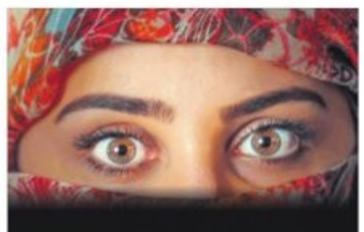
The Bharatiya Samagana Sabha presents Svarna Cauvery, a music festival that depicts some of the cultural values of Indian Carnatic Music and dedicated to the river Cauvery.

WHERE: Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Malleswaram
WHEN: Feb 23 onwards, 5pm

Fine Wine

Indulge in a wine tour followed by a wine-tasting session, amidst beautiful greenery.

WHERE: Rico Vineyards, Singanayakanahalli
WHEN: Feb 20 onwards, 11am
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com



BEAUTY GURU

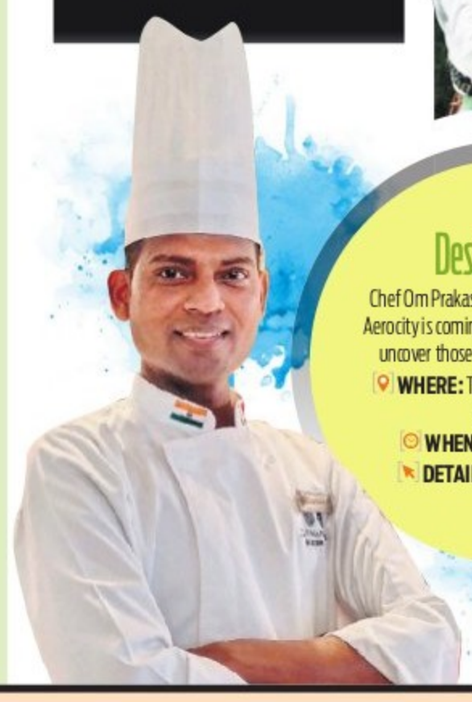
Learn the techniques involved in the process of eyebrow microblading and micro feathering in a creative and innovative manner.

WHERE: Zorain Studio, Amar Jyothi Layout, Intermediate Ring Road
WHEN: Feb 20, 11am
DETAILS: 9900032855

Deep Connect

Shamanism is a practice of restoring wholeness. In this session you will dive into the magic of this indigenous practice.

WHERE: Shoonya Centre for Art and Somatic Practices, Lal Bagh Main Road
WHEN: Feb 20, 6.30pm
DETAILS: insider.in



Desi Flavours

Chef Om Prakash from Novotel New Delhi Aerocity is coming to the city in the quest to uncover those classic highway flavours.

WHERE: The Square, Novotel, Outer Ring Road
WHEN: Till Feb 26, 12.30 pm
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

FUEL FOR TRAVEL

Students explore exhibits at the ongoing Tours and Travels Fair organised at Palace Grounds | VINOD KUMAR T

QUICK FIX

PINEAPPLE FRITTERS

INGREDIENTS

- **Pineapple slices:** 6
- **Powdered cinnamon:** 1 tsp
- **Vegetable oil:** 1/2 cup
- **All purpose flour:** 3/4 cup
- **Powdered green cardamom:** 1/2 tsp
- **Baking powder:** 1/2 tsp
- **Sugar:** 2 tbsp
- **Powdered sugar:** 2 tbsp
- **Milk:** 1/2 cup

METHOD

- Put flour & baking powder together in a bowl. Add cardamom powder, milk and mix well to make a smooth, lump-free batter.
- In a pan, heat some oil. Meanwhile, dip one pineapple slice at a time and carefully drop into the hot oil. Deep fry from both sides till crisp and golden.
- Transfer the fritters on a kitchen towel/napkin to soak excess oil and set aside till warm. Dust powdered sugar and cinnamon powder all over the fritters and serve.

What's cooking in your kitchen?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com

FIT BIT

PADMA UTTANA SHVANAKASANA

(LOTUS INTENSE EXTENDED PUPPY DOG POSE)

It is an intermediate and combination of Dolphin and Child poses. It opens your heart, stretches and lengthens your spine, and stretches your shoulders. Spiritually, it activates both the Svadhisthana (spleen or sacral) and Anahata (heart) chakras.

STEPS

- Start in Padmasana (Lotus Pose), spine straight, arms at the sides of your body.
- With your shoulders stacked over your wrists and also your hips over your knees.
- Then, exhale and walk your hands forward towards the top edge of the mat, your chest down toward the ground. and your forehead down to the floor.
- Make sure your hips and knees stay perpendicular on the floor. Keep your arms active; don't let your elbows and forearms touch the ground.
- Spread your fingers and press firmly on the floor. Draw your shoulder onto your back and keep your hips upwards.
- Now, bring your gaze forward so that your chin rests gently on the mat.
- Then, allow your neck to relax and breathe into your back, lengthening your spine in both directions.
- Hold this position for around 5-7 breaths while breathing deeply.
- Release by coming back into the Padmasana position and then in a straight position.

BENEFITS

- A great heart opener.
- Improves blood circulation. Blood flows towards the chest and the shoulders.
- Improves the capacity of the lungs.
- Lower abdomen gets a great massage and stomach muscles too get activated.
- Gives deep stretch to the shoulders and arms while giving it maximum relaxation.
- Lower back stretches are more beneficial for the hips and hamstrings.
- Great stressbuster and calms the mind and body.
- Gives an excellent respite for chronic stress or tension in the shoulders and upper spine.
- Reduces the fat and improves digestion.
- It also reduces the symptoms of chronic stress, and insomnia.
- It is a hybrid pose, as well as a warm-up pose, which helps to prepare the body for more intense yoga poses.

LIMITATIONS

People with knee or neck injury, shoulder problems or suffering from severe lower back pain, avoid this asana.

Women can skip this asana during pregnancy.

Do it under yoga expert's supervision.

By N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

KHUFIYA (Hindi)

Khufiya is an upcoming Hindi-language neo-noir spy thriller film written, produced and directed by Vishal Bhardwaj. The film is based on Amar Bhushan's espionage novel Escape to Nowhere.

Cast: Tabu, Ali Fazal, Wamiqa Gabbi, Ashish Vidyarthi
Watch on: Netflix

PREMAM (Malayalam)

Malar, a college instructor, revives his love interest as George's first love ends in disappointment. Over numerous stages of his amorous journey, he discovers his destiny.

Cast: Nivin Pauly, Sai Pallavi
Watch on: Disney+ Hotstar

BHOY (Bengali)

Ayan, a swimming coach, lives with his ailing mother and an autistic sister. His life takes a drastic turn when he is entrapped in a false case by his uncle, who is after their property.

Cast: Ankush Hazra, Nusraat Faria Mazhar
Watch on: ZEE5

JAYSUKH ZADPAYO (Gujarati)

Jaysuk is financially burdened by debts that his father left him. Even after he gets a job in a firm, he is troubled by a love triangle that involves his boss's sister and his lover. How will Jaysuk manage to come out of this mess without losing his job or damaging his love life?

Cast: Johnny Lever, Jimit Trivedi, Puja Joshi
Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

MANN KASTURI RE (Marathi)

Love is the most sacred thing, but what happens when it is deluged by vices like ego, pride and misunderstanding? This love story unravells the various aspects of love, and the struggle of a mother, who is fighting for the well being of her son!

Cast: Abhinay Berde, Tejasswi Prakash, Veena Jamkar
Watch on: Amazon Prime Videoa

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

OPERATION FRYDAY (Hindi)

The story follows Ghulam, a police informer to an encounter specialist named Sada Nair. His brother gets killed in a gang war, and Ghulam is determined to hold the entire police force responsible for his death. He then kickstarts his own business, only to be wrongfully involved in a series of bomb blasts across the city. Ghulam then decides to take matters into his own hands and starts to hunt down the wrongdoers.

Cast: Suniel Shetty, Randeep Hooda
Watch on: ZEE5

GARUDA (Kannada)

Garuda revolves around the efforts of Vikram, a man on a mission to capture an evil mastermind who destroyed his family and is also a threat to the country.

Cast: Siddharth Mahesh, Srinagar Kitty, Aindrita Ray
Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

FOREIGN

PHANTOM PROJECT (English)

An aspiring actor makes ends meet by working as a simulated patient in odd alternative therapy sessions. When his roommate vanishes, he's saddled with mounting problems, including a dog and a cardigan possessed by a ghost.

Cast: Juan Cano, Ingrid Isensee, Claudio
Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

TRUE SPIRIT (English)

True Spirit follows Jessica Watson, an Australian teenager who becomes the youngest person ever to sail solo, non-stop around the world.

Cast: Cliff Curtis, Anna Paquin, Teagan Croft
Watch on: Netflix

INFIESTO (English)

Two detectives are sent to investigate a strange occurrence in a mining town, located in the Asturian mountains. A young woman who was thought to be dead for months has suddenly reappeared, leaving the detectives to uncover what mysterious forces are at play.

Cast: Patricia Defran, Iria del Río, Isak Férriz
Watch on: Netflix

ABBOUD AT HOME (English)

Two young boys must work together to stop robbers from breaking in after their family accidentally leaves them home alone during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Cast: Ahmed Bin Hussein, Bader Al Atwan
Watch on: Netflix

SUBSCRIPTION

Prime Video:	₹179 per month
Zee5:	₹399 for 3 months
Disney+Hotstar:	₹199 for 3 months
Netflix:	₹149 per month

XPRESS HIGHWAY

FORTNIGHTLY SEGMENT ON WHAT'S REVVING UP IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

The Hyundai Grand i10 Nios has got a makeover, with more safety additions and an attractive exterior

YOUNG & DASHING

LEKSHMI C PILLAI

THE Hyundai i10 has always been one of the favourite cars of Indian families. With the release of the Grand i10 and Grand i10 Nios, its popularity reached new heights.

Once viewed as a family car, the i10 became a hit among youngsters with the launch of the Grand i10 Nios in 2019. It was young and fresh in every angle and aspect. To make Nios younger, Hyundai has given a facelift to the beautiful hatchback.

Though there are very noticeable cosmetic changes, the real reason for the facelift lies in the safety and emission fronts. Hyundai has upped the safety quotient of the model. All the variants now come with at least four airbags (driver, passenger and sides). In the top variants, there are six airbags (four+curtain).

Nios also has new features such as Electronic Stability Control (ESC), Vehicle Stability Management (VSM), Hill Start Assist Control (HAC), Parking Assist with Rear Parking Sensors and Rear Camera Amplified Customer Safety as well as parking convenience.

For safety, an 8.89 cm (3.5inch) cluster with a multi-information display and tyre pressure monitoring system have also been added.

Coming to the emission norms, the new Nios offers Real Driving Emission compliant and E20 fuel (20% ethanol-blended petrol)-ready 1.2-litre engine. It comes with five-speed manual transmission and AMT. Then, there is the 1.2-litre petrol engine with CNG.

It has a five-speed manual transmission. The new emission norms will come into force in April 2023. That means Grand i10 Nios is future-ready.

But for diesel and turbo lovers, the new Nios doesn't offer any opportunity. Hyundai has withdrawn diesel and turbo petrol engines from the Nios range.

PRICE

The introductory ex-showroom price of the new Grand i10 Nios starts at Rs 5.68 lakh and goes up to 8.46 lakh. The hatchback comes with a warranty of three years, which can be extended to seven years. The car comes in six monotones and two dual-tone exterior colours.

THE DRIVE

I enjoyed the silence in the cabin. The engine is smooth during all normal driving conditions, and the noise does not come into the cabin. The light clutch provides easy transmission. The leather-covered steering wheel offers very comfortable handling. Ride comfort is also good. The company claims a mileage of 20.7 kmpl for the manual variant and 20.1 kmpl for the AMT.

The Looks

I like the new front design of the car. It is a new-age design with a painted black radiator grille and LED daytime running lamps (DRLs) integrated into a sporty-looking bumper. The lamps reminded me of a bird flying.

Projector headlamps in a stylish sweptback design also add to the look.

The 15-inch wheels and shark-fin antenna elevate the profile view. The contemporary styling is seen in the rear too. The new set of LED tail lamps and connecting reflector strips are some new attractions.

The cabin is also well-appointed. The light colour theme is refreshing. Comfort, style, space and features are all useful and youthful.

The 20.25 cm (8 inches) touchscreen display, audio with smartphone navigation, cruise control, fast USB charger, wireless phone charger and smart key are some of the new additions.

The writer is a freelance auto expert who hosts TV shows and anchors the YouTube channel 'CARKADUVA'

A breezy, sporty ride

LEKSHMI C PILLAI

THE Chinese brand BYD entered the electric vehicle and component arena in India around 16 years ago. Founded in 1995 with battery technology, BYD has successfully expanded its new energy vehicle footprint across six continents in more than 70 countries and regions in over 400 cities.

The Chinese brand forayed into the Indian electric car market recently with E6 MPV and tasted great success. That made it introduce a more modern vehicle to the personal mobility space — Atto 3, a sporty e-SUV.

Atto 3 is in the mid-SUV segment and has e-rivals like MG ZS EV and Hyundai Kona EV. The cross-over-looking car carries a 60.48 kWh battery.

The company claims a range of 521 km. On my test drive, the car showed a real-life range of 400 km. With 150 KW peak power and 310 Nm torque, it is a breeze to drive the Atto 3. We can enjoy the surge of power from the very beginning. There are three drive modes and regenerative brake settings to suit our needs. Comfort, convenience and performance are well balanced in this vehicle.

The curvaceous, sporty-looking e-SUV boasts fast charging from 0 to 80 in 50 minutes and a 0 to 100km/h in 7.3 seconds.

BYD is known for its battery technology, and the blade battery design and safety are the biggest USPs for Atto 3 too. It is filled with tech features to the brim. An Advanced Driving Assistance System (ADAS level-2), seven airbags, panoramic sunroof, 12.8-inch (32.5cm) adaptive rotating suspension electronic pad, 360° camera with a transparent imaging system, NFC card key.. The list is long. The ADAS system consists of automatic emergency braking, adaptive cruise control, blind spot detection, door opening warning, lane departure warning and lane departure prevention, and adaptive front light.

I found the cabin design theme of Atto 3 interesting — sporty and youthful. It is styled with the concept of sports and fitness — muscle streamline centre console, dumbbell style AC vents, grip style door handles, treadmill style centre armrest, door trim with strings and multi-colour rhythmic interactive ambient light.

The build quality of Atto 3 is evident in its heavy doors and other panels. The model has a five-star safety rating from Euro NCAP, Europe's leading independent safety assessment programme. According to BYD, their blade battery has successfully passed the nail penetration test, the most rigorous safety test for batteries.

The e-SUV boasts of an eight-year or 1.6 lakh kilometres warranty for the battery. The motor and controller have an eight-year or 1.5 lakh kilometres warranty. BYD also offers basic warranty of six-year or 1.5 lakh kilometres.

The Atto 3 is priced at ₹33.99 lakh (ex-showroom). A limited edition forest green Atto 3 is also available in India at ₹34.49 lakh (ex-showroom).

NEW RELEASES

All-new powerful XPULSE

Hero MotoCorp launched the all-new XPulse 200T 4Valve to add more customers to its premium portfolio. The new Xpulse comes with enhanced touring capabilities, superior state-of-the-art technology and clear advances in design and performance. Equipped with a 200cc 4 Valve Oil Cooled Engine of 19 hp power and 17.3 Nm torque, the modern tourer offers 6% more power and 5% added torque, ensuring a relaxed and stress-free ride all day long at higher speeds. The XPulse 200T 4 Valve is available at ₹1,25,726 (ex-showroom)

Safer CIAZ

Maruti Suzuki has unveiled a new dual-tone avatar of its premium mid-size sedan Ciaz. The sedan is equipped with over 20 safety features, including Electronic Stability Program (ESP) and Hill Hold Assist as standard with dual airbags, rear parking sensors, ISOFIX child seat anchorage, etc. The Ciaz is available in seven colours and three new dual-tone options. The car comes with a petrol engine of 104 hp. Ciaz is sold through Maruti Nexa dealerships. Based on the top Alpha variant, the Ciaz dual-tone is available at ₹11,14,500 (Manual) and ₹12,34,500 (Automatic).

SIMPLE, BUT VISUALLY GREAT!

ARE YOU GAME?
Anusha Ganapathi
@quofles

(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)

There's nothing unpredictable about video game beginnings, it's always something dramatically sad. It's the important precursor to a very cool adventure, and if it's not campy and cliché, it's not right. This one begins with aspirational samurai Hiroki: as a young 'un, we watch him witness the tragic death of his master. The scene cuts to several years past, where older Hiroki finally embarks on his revenge quest. There are some stunning visuals in black and white, and the game plays like a top-tier samurai movie from a century past. But an hour into the game, I felt like 'Trek to Yomi' was missing something.

I didn't press on with the issue right then. I was still hooked with its combat sequences with different-sized bandits. I liked that I unlocked combat combos by clicking buttons the wrong way. The game also introduced new ranged weapons, and the story felt compelling just then. A burning village, unlimited bandit villains, and village members thanking me for my help? Bring it on! More than anything, I liked how it looked: while the game is a simple side scroller, in that it moves from one "room" to another, it also takes the interesting isometric perspective. Imagine a CCTV camera that had access to all the roads in this tiny feudal-Japanese town. It captures every katana slash in excruciating detail, but tastefully adds that aesthetic grain to the scenery. There was that lurch of curiosity that pushed me from one combat sequence to another, because something more interesting could lie ahead.

On hitting chapter 3 of the game, I realised that I could ignore it no longer. I was halfway through Trek to Yomi, and I saw no signs of my newly acquired skills and new weapons coming of any use. Unless you are daring enough to play the game in the one-hit-kill mode, the game feels as complex as a jigsaw puzzle with just one giant piece. It's simple, it teases you with the idea that it gets challenging and varied, but it doesn't. Somehow, this issue was not harsh enough for it to discourage finishing the game. Trek to Yomi is only five hours long anyway. The game released for the Nintendo Switch a few weeks back, and is also available to play on the PlayStation, Windows, and Xbox.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) RAFIYA SULTANA,** W/o. Abdul Wajid, residing at No. 20/1, Police Lane C Street Taha College Bharathi Nagar, Shivajinagar H K P Road, Bangalore-560051, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) RAFIYA SULTANA** to **(NEW NAME) RAFIA SULTANA** vide affidavit Dated 15/02/2023 sworn before Notary S.R.Nanjunda Swamy, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **K CHANDRASHEKAR,** S/o. C M Kempaiah, residing at No139 F Road, Ideal Homes Township 2nd Stage, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bangalore-560098, have changed my name from **K CHANDRA SHEKAR** to **VIJAY CHANDRASHEKARA** vide affidavit dated 18/02/2023 sworn before notary BKR Krishnamurthy Reg No.1351, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANKUSH,** residing at No.1158, 3rd Cross, 25th Main Road, LIC Colony, J.P. Nagar 1st Phase, Bangalore South, Bengaluru-560078, have changed my name as **ANKUSH H VISHWAKARMA,** vide affidavit dated 13-02-2023 before Notary Public **MOHAMMED HUSSAIN K,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RAJANALA PRIYA SHUBHANGINI** Resident of Flat No. C 303, Meda Eternity, Kithiganur, Bengaluru - 560 036, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **BUDI PRIYA SHUBHANGINI** to **RAJANALA PRIYA SHUBHANGINI** vide affidavit dated 17.02.2023 sworn to before C. Sharada, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
We, RAJU H.D. and SOWMYA, both are permanent residing at No.23, 1st Main, 9th Cross, Belavadi, Mysore, and presently residing at No.634, 7th Cross, Bharath Housing Society, Uttarahalli Main Road, Bangalore-560061, we have changed our son's name from **TEJAS RAJ H to TRISHAN RAJ** vide affidavit dated 27.01.2023 sworn to before advocate and Notary H.S. Dharma Prasad, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RAVI KUMAR VENKATESULU, S/o VENKATESULU KANNAN,** residing at P401, Sumadhura Soham, ECC Road, Whitefield, Bengaluru - 560066, Karnataka, India, changed the name of my minor son aged 12 years (DoB:-02-10-2010), from **KAUSHAL to KAUSHAL RAVI** vide affidavit dated 17.02.2023, sworn before notary VEENA J at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **KAVITHA M,** W/o. **VIJAY CHANDRASHEKARA,** residing at No.139, F Road, Ideal Homes Township 2nd Stage, Rajarajeshwari nagar, Bangalore-560098, have changed my name from **KAVITHA M** to **KAVITHA CHANDRASHEKARA,** vide affidavit dated 19/02/2023 sworn before notary BKR krishnaMurthy Reg No.1351, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Sunidhi** D/o Vasudeva Adiga, aged 25 years, R/at No. M-14, 26th Main, 1st Phase, J. P. Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560078 have changed my name from **SUNIDHI** to **SUNIDHI ADIGA** vide order from the High Court of Karnataka in RFA No. 314 of 2023 dated 14.02.2023

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Madhu Reddy P.V. S/o. Venkatesh Reddy, aged about 42 years, R/at No.28, Pooramakanahalli Village, Dodda Kadathur Post, Malur Taluk, Kolar District, today at Bengaluru, have changed my son's name from **NEHAL REDDY M to NIDAARSHAN REDDY M** vide affidavit dated 17.02.2023 sworn to before advocate and Notary Lakshminarayana, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, PRASHANTH NAGARAJ HULLUR aged about 51 years. R/at No: 32, 1st main road. Amara Jyothi Layout, Opp Buildafina Apartments, Domlur, Bangalore-560071, have changed my son's name from **OMKAR P HULLUR to VEDAYUSH P HULLUR** vide affidavit dated 17.02.2023 sworn to before advocate and Notary S.I. Balaguru, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SANTHOSHKUMAR MARASANIGE CHINNEGOWDA** S/o. **Chinnegowda Doddahaklu** Marasanige, R/at Marasanige, Mudigere, Chikkamagaluru -577124, camp at Bangalore, have changed my name to **SANTHOSH MARASANIGE CHINNEGOWDA,** vide affidavit dt:17.02.2023 before Notary **K.V. Mani,** Bangalore.

DECLARATION
I,PRADEEP SHAM RAO S/o Shama Rao S, Age 45 year, R/o. #1702, Shravanthi Palladium, 100ft Road, Off Kanakapura Rd, Ganigarapalya, Bengaluru-09, **PRADEEP SHAM RAO, PRADEEP S, S PRADEEP, PRADEEP RAO and PRADEEP S RAO** all the names are one & same person i.e. my name, vide affidavit dated 07/02/2023 sworn before notary BKR Krishnamurthy, B'lore, henceforth I will be called as **PRADEEP SHAM RAO.**

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANJALI I,** Aged about 31 years, D/o. Issac A, R/a. No. 816, Goppana Compound, 4th Cross, Opp. Agarabatti Factory, Hashan Layout, Kaval Byrasandra, RT Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 032, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **MARY BASILICA** to **ANJALI I** vide affidavit dated 17.02.2023 sworn to before P.N. Nagesha, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, at Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **FALAK NAAZ,** residing permanently at #2/3,1st Floor, Park View Apartments, Clark Road, Opp: Richards Park, VTC Bangalore 560005, have changed my name to **FALAK NAAZ SHARIFF** for all future purpose vide affidavit dated 08.02.2023 sworn to before advocate and Notary A. IDINABBA, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, VIVEK INAMDAR Aged about 43 Years, S/o. Atmaram Inamdar, resident of No. 301, Mandurg Apartments, 43/5, 8th Main Road, Near 14th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru560003, have changed my name to **VIVEK ATMARAM INAMDAR** for all future purpose vide affidavit dated 17.02.2023 sworn to before advocate and Notary B.M. Chandrashekar, Bangalore

'One can't write off an actor like Kitty'

Photographer-turned-director Soora speaks about his upcoming debut, *Gowli*

A SHARADHAA

AFTER starting out as a photographer, debutant director Soora simultaneously developed a passion for filmmaking. After six years of photography, and three years of assisting in various films, Soora has finally realised his dream of becoming a filmmaker with the upcoming film, *Gowli*.

"Along with photography, the direction was also a long-standing passion. However, I needed to do some basic steps to become a filmmaker, and photography definitely helped me understand directorial techniques better," he says, adding, "Along with clicking pictures, I also enjoyed story writing. I always aspire to do something different and unique, and *Gowli* will be my first attempt towards it."

Considering *Gowli* (milkman) is based on a real-life incident, the director clarifies that it was a short story narrated to him by an elderly person. "The incident happened 50 years back, but I have set the film in 2000s just before the mobile era. The film is set against the Uttara Karnataka backdrop," says Soora, adding, "The entire film is captured in and around Sirsi, amid the Gowli families, who reside as a community in the village inside the forest. This was done only to bring authenticity to the subject. Secondly, Sirsi being my native, I spent my adolescence with these families. I always felt positive vibes with the name, Gowli."

Soora's film brings back Srinagar Kitty as the lead after a gap of almost six years. Talking about how he zeroed in on the actor, Soora says, "Kitty, who has done over 25 films has already proved his versatility in films like *Sanju Weds Geetha* and *Inti Ninna Preetiya*. Today, he might not be in the limelight, but there is no doubt that he is one of the finest actors in our industry, and such talents can never be written off. All they require is a good story, and a director, who can execute it. To be precise, I consider the director as the first hero and then comes the story, followed by the actor who can justify the script. Thinking of the actor who would perfectly fit the vision I had for the role, I could not think of anybody else but Kitty. After the release, I'm pretty sure this will be the same opinion among the audience too," he says.

Along with Srinagar Kitty, *Gowli*, produced by Raghu Singham under Sohan Film Factory, features Paawana Gowda as the female lead. The film also stars Sharath Lohithashwa, Govinde Gowda, Gopalkrishna Deshpande, Rangayana Raghu, Cockroach Suddhi, Namana, Muredaya, and Rudresh.

With music by Shashank Sheshagiri, the cinematography is by Sandeep Valluri. "I'm glad to have got the required resources in my debut film. Of course, I faced challenges too, but we have put our best efforts in my first outing, and I hope this win will shape my career," signs off Soora.

Soora

MEGHANA RAJ'S NEXT, TITLED *TATSAMA TATBHAVA*

The film marks the debut production of Pannaga Bharana

CE FEATURES

ON Saturday, Meghana Raj Sarja put up a rather cryptic post. It read, "2020, it was a Sunday, when things changed drastically for me. Since then I was asked about one obvious thing—that one question. Tomorrow, Sunday, I have finally decided to answer." Now, it is clear that the post was in reference to her upcoming film.

Meghana is back to playing a lead role, and she will headline Vishal Atreya's investigative crime thriller, titled *Tatsama Tadbhava*. With the filming completed, the makers revealed the title of the film along with the first look. Interestingly, the title poster was unveiled simultaneously by hundreds of celebrities on their respective social media handles. That's not all, Kannada organisations also released the poster in more than 30 countries around the world on their respective social networks.

The film, which brings together a bunch of good friends of Meghana Raj, has actor and director Pannaga Bharana making his debut as a producer. *Tatsama Tadbhava* will be made under the PBStudios4 banner, and features Prajwal Devaraj in a pivotal role. *Tatsama Tadbhava* has music composed by Vasuki Vaibhav, and cinematography by Srinivas Ramaiah.

Explaining the unique title, Pannaga says the words *Tatsama Tadbhava* are synonyms. "The film is an investigative crime thriller, and The Confession is the first chapter. The speciality about the film is that all friends have come together to produce a film for Meghana," says Pannaga, who is hoping to release the film by April.

Talking about her experience of working in *Tatsama Tadbhava*, Meghana says, "I didn't go on the sets just as an actor. This is like my home banner, and I got involved in every aspect of filmmaking. It just felt very personal. There was an emotional side to this character, which drained me so much. Though I gave my 100 per cent to this episode, I still wanted to complete that portion. At that end of it, I felt good, and it was an indescribable feeling," says Meghana, adding, "I felt unique when the stalwarts of the Kannada film industry, and many others wanted to promote the film. I was overwhelmed. The fact that people are there for me, made me feel good."

A mature take on the highs and lows of marriage

A SHARADHAA

LOVE Birds has been released amidst great expectations among the audience, with the lead pair Krishna and Milana Nagaraj being a real-life couple and the hit pair of *Love Mocktail* series. But unlike their previous films, which looked all rosy, this film by PC Shekar has them drifting in and out of love. The dramedy tries to explore the 'adventures' and 'misadventures' of married life with a calculated infusion of humour.

Deepak (Krishna), a software engineer, finds a match in Pooja (Milana Nagaraj), an independent girl into fashion designing, through a matrimonial site, and the two get into wedlock. What begins as a cheerful scenario, leads to bitter-sweet moments, and eventually a decision to divorce. Enters lawyer Maya (Samyukta Hornad) who is hell-bent on bringing the couple back together. 'Will her perseverance make the couple reexamine their relationships?' Answers the film which makes for an interesting watch.

Coming from the director of *Romeo,* Love Birds is a well-researched film, capturing nuances of married life and the situations that arise when a couple is on the verge of separation. However, Shekar could have been careful with the screenplay, especially in the second half. In an attempt to bring in the commercial aspects, he diverts from the core plot. At one point, viewers begin to feel that the story is striding along the lines of *Love Mocktail 2,* however, the twists do the trick. Though the film has a meaningful ending, it does not leave a strong impact.

LOVE BIRDS
Director: PC Shekar | **Cast:** Krishna, Milana Nagaraj, Samyukta Hornad, Rangayana Raghu, Sadhu Kokila, and Veena Sundar

RATING 3/5

The performances of Krishna and Milana Nagaraj are natural and poignant. Their characters depict the universal truth about marriage and the life after. The comic relief in the story is offered by actors Ranyana Raghu, Veena Sundar, and Sadhu Kokila. While Gaurav Shetty has a pivotal role to play, Samyukta Hornad, as a catalyst in the screenplay, handles her part with competence.

Dialogue writer Prashanth Rajappa deserves to be lauded for penning meaningful lines about relationships and organically infusing humour into the script. The film is an equally good romantic musical with some good medleys from Arjun Janya, that are shot well by Shakti Shekar.

Love Birds gives a mature outlook on modern relationships, discussing love, trust, and marriage. And there are ample takeaways for husband and wife to maintain a harmonious marriage.

Project K gets a release date

CE FEATURES

THE makers of the much-awaited pan-Indian film *Project K* have locked the release date. The film starring, Prabhas, Deepika Padukone and Amitabh Bachchan in the lead roles, is set to hit the theatres on January 12, 2024. The makers released a special poster along with the announcement for the occasion of Shivaratri. The poster features a giant palm, as three men point their weapons at it. The backdrop hints it to be an environment of dystopic future.

Project K, which has been simultaneously shot in Telugu and Hindi, marks Deepika's Telugu film debut and also her first movie with Prabhas. *Project K* is also set in a futuristic world and deals with the aftermath of war. It is directed by Nag Ashwin and backed by Vyjayanthi Films. *Project K* also reunites the Mahanati team of Nag Ashwin, cinematographer Dani Sanchez-Lopez and music director Mickey J Meyer. C Ashwini Dutt serves as the producer.

SIMON REX JOINS THE CAST OF *THE LEADER*

CE FEATURES

WE had previously reported that Tim Blake Nelson and Vera Farmiga will be leading the upcoming film about the Heaven's Gate cult, *The Leader.* The latest update is that Simon Rex will also be joining the film's cast. Heaven's Gate was a cult with members who committed mass suicide believing that the passing of Comet Hale-Bopp in 1997 was their ticket to the 'next level' in the journey of life - a type of heaven beyond human life.

The Leader is the story of the cult and its founders, Marshall Applewhite (aka Ti) and Bonnie Nettles (aka Do). Tim and Vera will be playing Marshall and Bonnie respectively in the film. Simon Rex is expected to play a key devotee of the cult who falls in love with a fellow cult member and faces devastating consequences. The film will be written and directed by Michael Gallagher.

The Leader will follow how Ti and Do rise to the top of a group of members who strongly believed that they will be transported off to a new world from this planet by a spaceship. Under the instructions of these two leaders, the members of the cult had to give up all worldly pleasures including family, friends, sexuality, individuality, and money. After Bonnie passed away from cancer in 1985, things began to go even more off the rails, resulting in the group's suicide in 1997.

Michael Gallagher will also produce *The Leader* on behalf of Cinemand with Balcony 9 Productions' Joel David Moore and Max Osswald.